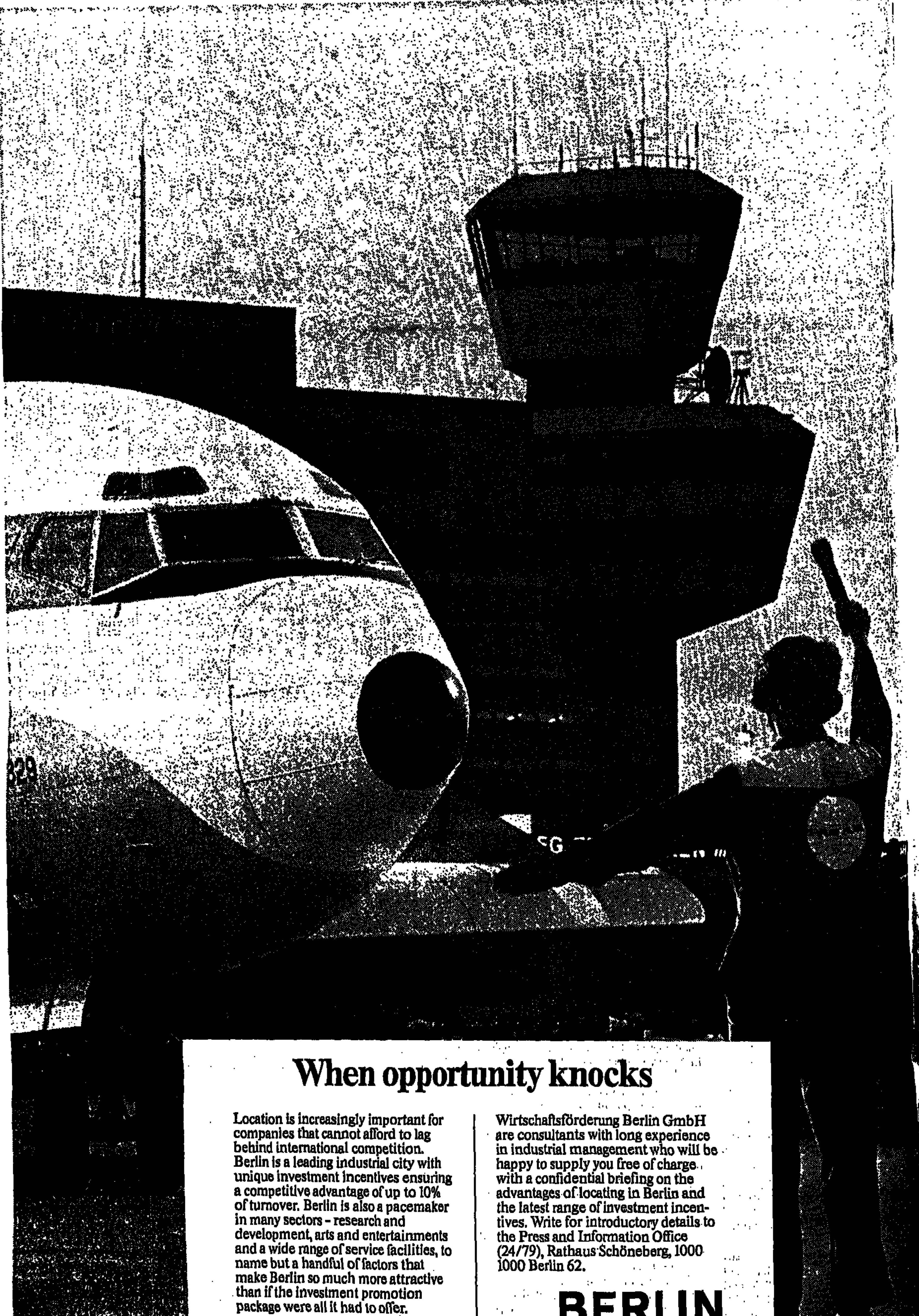


The German Tribune

Hamburg, 21 October 1979
Eighteenth Year - No. 912 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Schmidt defines foreign policy principles

The Bonn Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, is more worried about the damage to American credibility if the Senate fails to ratify the Salt agreement than the effect on the military balance of power. He spelt-out his attitude towards strategic arms in an interview on the wider issue of foreign policy in the British weekly newspaper, "The Economist".

Herr Schmidt said three American governments had committed themselves to the principles of mutual strategic arms limitation, culminating in the second Salt agreement.

If the agreement were now rejected, the question would be how there could be any reliance on American foreign in the long term.

This lack of credibility also meant a security problem: the United States leadership of the Western alliance would be so weakened that Nato would be exposed to serious dangers in terms of its inner and outer security.

Herr Schmidt's views increasingly revolve round the three concepts of credibility — as with the USA over the Salt ratification — calculability and balance.

Closely related to the concept of credibility, but more wide-ranging, is that of calculability.

Here Herr Schmidt is returning to basic principles which first arose 20 years ago when it became clear that the Soviet Union had broken through the United States' nuclear monopoly and was beginning to catch up in the field of strategic weapons.

At a time when both sides had accumulated such great and dangerous power potential, the big powers needed to refrain from springing surprises on one another which could lead to conflict.

It was essential for each side to formulate its interests clearly and avoid abrupt changes of course. Each side would have to know where it stood in relation to the other. Changes of course were dangerous because they could lead to miscalculations by the other side.

It is obvious that this principle of calculability is the most difficult to observe. Changes of interest are of course possible in a constantly changing world: besides, definitions of interest, at least in democracies, often depend on changing political directions and changes of leadership. And recent history has shown that this even applies to communist powers.

When Herr Schmidt said in "The Economist" interview that the world would be rather incalculable if the Salt agreement were rejected and a credibility crisis followed, he was thinking beyond the present. In the United States, President Carter's popularity is sinking and there is the possibility of a change of President at the end of 1980.

One would then have to wait and see what the policies of the new President were. On the Soviet side, the likelihood of a change at the top increases all the time, for natural reasons. In situations such as these, according to Herr Schmidt, there should be stabilising elements, precisely defined mutual interests which limit the possibility of abrupt changes of course.

According to Herr Schmidt, the rejection of the Salt agreement would leave everything open; and indeed the absence of a national consensus in foreign policy today is a far more worrying factor in world politics than in previous decades.

The third concept is that of balance. Stable relations between the powers are only possible in an atmosphere of security. Imbalances, however, create insecurity and fear, which are bound to ruin any form of detente policy.

This applies to relations between the strategic potential of the world powers and to the regions, where there is a combination of economic, military and political factors. Imbalances always anticipate changes in the balance of political power. They make developments incalculable and political intentions incredible, however finely they may be phrased.

Herr Schmidt first formulated this theory of the three major concepts at an extraordinary meeting of the UN on questions of disarmament in New York a year and a half ago. He wanted to warn against the illusion that disarmament depended only on goodwill. If it was to create more rather than less security, it could only take place where a balance of power had already been reached or else it would have to redress an imbalance. Herr Schmidt's speech was made shortly after his meeting with Mr Brezhnev in Bonn. His aim was to make clear publicly the *leitmotive* of German policy, as he had done to Mr Brezhnev; he also had the impression that Mr Brezhnev *in these talks had* accepted the principle of the balance of power even with regard to Europe, where it affects West Germany most.

When he uses these concepts today, there is a stronger undertone of concern. The Soviet Union has stated its willingness to negotiate on its system of mobile medium-range missiles, which upset the balance of power in Europe, but it has so far shown no inclination to limit the production and introduction of these weapon systems, even though Nato has no comparable system stationed on European soil.

Nato will therefore have to decide to produce and install similar weapons in the hope that, having made such a decision, it can then enter into fruitful negotiations on the limitation of such systems.

Herr Schmidt's worry is that these decisions must be made at a time when for other reasons — including the possible rejection of the Salt agreement — relations between the world powers are becoming more incalculable.

These worries have made the Chancellor increasingly "eurocentric", though he does not of course deny Europe's dependence on the United States.

His need to assure French support for German policies, to develop long-term interests and thus to create a stable and reliable partnership is increasingly strong.

He knows that this alone is not enough and he would like to win the support of Great Britain for the concept of permanent, planned and co-ordinated foreign policy.

He has not stated this clearly in public, but this is the implication behind his recent complaint that Great Britain still not was not fully playing its European role.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 October 1979)

IN THIS ISSUE



Talks in Ireland
The Irish Prime Minister, Jack Lynch, (right) greets the Bonn Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, in Dublin. Herr Schmidt spent two days in the Irish Republic for talks on the EEC.
(Photos: dpa)



High note for Menuhin
Violinist Yehudi Menuhin (right) receives the German Book Trade Peace Prize, the Federal Republic of Germany's most important cultural prize. Left is Rolf Keller, Chairman of the German Book Trade Association. The ceremony, in Frankfurt, was televised live. As an appreciation, Menuhin played a 15-minute interpretation of the rarely played "Ciaconna", from the Partita in D-minor, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

■ NATO

Modernisation and cash the central problems

Two main issues dominate the security policy debate that is currently preoccupying both political parties in West Germany and European Nato countries on the one hand and the United States on the other.

The first is modernisation and possible additions to the Eurostrategic arms potential, or medium-range missile arsenal.

Directly linked to this issue, as Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel put it with his usual clarity in Washington, is Salt II ratification by the US Senate.

The second is the problem of an increase in Nato defence spending in real terms. The agreement to step up expenditute by a real three per cent per annum has long proved no more than wishful thinking.

And it is not just that there has been no specification of what increases are to qualify as real (higher wages for the armed forces, for instance, can make a splendid statistical difference without improving firepower in the least).

West Germany will not be reaching the three per cent level. Even including the extra, contingency allocations for higher oil prices, Bonn's defence spending will not increase by more than two-and-a-half per cent at most.

Washington can hardly afford to point an accusing finger at Bonn on this score now the United States itself is unlikely to achieve its three-per-cent target either.

In addition to these two major sectors of debate there is also a "grey zone" of politico-strategic discussion by men who are either unaware or heedless of the seed they are sowing.

Politicians and pundits who not long ago were calling for Nato to extend its operational area to the Horn of Africa are now seriously debating sending Nato troops in to the oil-rich states of the Middle East.

Any such mission would only by necessary in an emergency, of course, but they are nonetheless considering sending troops in to safeguard oil supplies if need be.

Former US Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger, who retired in August, rightly noted that the North Atlantic Treaty does not provide for any such mission.

As a former Defence Secretary too he should know that Nato is a mutual defence pact whose members are pledged to come to each other's assistance in the event of an attack.

Mutual military support is intended, to quote the treaty preamble, "to guarantee the freedom, the joint heritage and the civilisation of their peoples, based on the principles of democracy, personal freedom and the role of law."

This is a high-flying moral claim by which the Nato countries deliberately sought to set themselves apart from the Warsaw Pact communist dictatorships.

But Nato has been untrue to these principles in the past. Portugal and Greece ought not, as dictatorships, to have been allowed to retain membership.

The alacrity with which geostrategic reasons were advanced as a pretext by which to justify their continued membership of the pact gave rise to a feeling of uneasiness.

Behind-the-scenes debate as to whether Nato's operational area ought not to be extended to the Persian Gulf and adjacent Middle East states could well go the same way.

Medium-range weapons in Europe

NATO 386 including France

USA and Great Britain

64 Medium-range missiles carried by submarines

150 heavy fighter-bombers

50 medium-range bombers

France

82 medium-range missiles

of these

64 carried on submarines

40 medium-range bombers

WARSAW PACT 1270

500 medium-range missiles of these 100 are mobile SS-20 missiles

600 medium-range bombers

150 heavy fighter-bombers

20 medium-range missiles carried by submarines in the Baltic Sea

3254

The dispute over continued Nato membership for Lisbon and Athens a few years ago ended, as the current debate well might, in a victory for the pragmatists.

They argued that non-democratic forms of government in Portugal and Greece must be accepted as the price that had to be paid for the maintenance of a full strategic midriff.

True enough, the West today must take care to ensure that energy supplies are guaranteed. But does this end justify any means?

Initial comments in the United States on plans to set up a US intervention force show that there are politicians and brasshats who are not unduly worried about the sovereignty of other countries when their own interests are at stake.

Only gradually did Washington abandon this initial viewpoint. The official argument is now that the strike force would naturally only be deployed at the express wish of the country concerned.

Safeguarding oil routes by military means is as politically dangerous as it is militarily hopeless, or so it would seem. Effective safeguards can only be provided by international agreements transcending political systems.

Energy is, when all is said and done, a world problem. Nato would certainly be well advised to ignore the sabre-rattling advice of a handful of would-be Clausewitzes.

Cooperation is solving energy problems is surely a matter of course, but there must be no question of extending Nato's operational area.

Any such idea would make *Nato's* role incredible and lead, sooner or later, to its demise. *Ulrich Mackensen*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 October 1979)

'No reason' to defer decision

The Bonn Government sees no reason to postpone the planned Nato decision to modernise its weapons systems as a prelude to arms negotiations.

Government spokesman Klaus Bölling made the position clear after Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev had made his speech in East Berlin.

"The alliance must adopt the measures necessary for its security and the re-establishment of the balance of power in Europe, regardless of speeches," said Herr Bölling.

President Carter's security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, adopted a similar line. In a television interview he said that the planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from the GDR would have no influence whatever on plans to instal American medium-range missiles in West Europe. In Mr Brzezinski's view, Moscow made this move to forestall the improvement of Nato's defence potential.

CDU defence expert Alois Mertes said Nato should continue with its modernisation plans. Alfons Pawelczyk, SPD parliamentary party defence spokesman, said that Mr Brezhnev's speech was a "signal" indicating Moscow's readiness for arms negotiations.

(Die Welt, 9 October 1979)

Soviet tone hardens over reaction to Brezhnev offer

The Soviet Union obviously expected its offer to withdraw soldiers and tanks from the German Democratic Republic to win more positive support in the West.

It certainly expected that the offer, made by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in East Berlin, would be approved without qualification by the Left in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Now the Soviet Union, disappointed in both cases, has taken a tougher tone as a sign of its feelings.

However the proposed withdrawal of 20,000 Soviet soldiers and 1,000 tanks from the GDR could not blind even pacifists to the fact that there is still a dangerous military imbalance and that minimal concessions such as those by Moscow unfortunately do not mean that Nato can abandon its defence efforts.

And so Moscow is far from pleased at the prospect of the Nato conference this December, when it is likely to decide to introduce modern nuclear missiles (Pershing II) and Cruise Missiles on Western soil — to help to make up to some extent for the ground lost to the Soviet Union in this field of armament. Of course the last word has not yet been spoken, especially in Holland and Belgium, but even here they certainly do not regard Mr Brezhnev's announcement as a sign of a major military epoch. Now is the time to analyse, confer and negotiate. Even Social Democrat Egon Bahr, who is always receptive towards proposals from Moscow, wants proof that this offer is more than just a tactical move to prevent Nato introducing more modern weapons systems in December.

However, Moscow's tougher line is unlikely to make future negotiations any easier. The Soviets have so far spared Herr Bahr and, strangely enough, Defence Minister Herr Hans Apel from their criticism. They had already found their scapegoat, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hans-Dietrich Genscher. This meant that Chancellor Schmidt was obliged to state categorically that the Bonn government was unanimous on this issue.

This may be correct in principle as every reasonable person is in favour of clarifying talks to find out what the Soviet Union's real intentions are. However in matters of detail, as so often in the defence sphere, there will probably be differences of opinion, which could lead to dangerous complications — much to the delight of the Soviets.

There would be no time pressure on exploratory talks, although there can be no delay in improving Nato armaments. However, the weapons Nato has in mind can, after the Americans have decided to produce them, only be installed in Europe in four years. This should be time enough to find out if the Soviets are really prepared to reduce their military superiority so far that the West could then correct further plans to redress the balance. The main problem for Nato remains that of avoiding internal arguments in the estimation of the military balance and the threat posed by East Bloc superiority.

It is clear that Moscow will not stop trying to drive a wedge between the Nato partners and the governments in the member countries. This tactic is old and all too familiar; Moscow has never recognised Nato as the counterpart to the Warsaw Pact and so has never advocated disarmament on both sides. In 1952 Stalin proposed the reunification of Germany in strict neutrality and with all occupying troops withdrawn.

At the time, the proposal seemed worth discussing to many West German politicians. Today bitter experience has not exactly inured us to tempting proposals from the East, but we are far more suspicious about them. And this cannot simply by removed by a gesture from Mr Brezhnev. *Friedrich Herzog*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 October 1979)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 13 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

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■ GDR

A 'temporary solution' is 30 years old

Only 30 out of every 100 Germans living today remember the founding of the German Democratic Republic. At that time the GDR seemed in their eyes a highly artificial state, without its own national and economic strength, without history or tradition: a temporary solution, far more so than the Federal Republic of Germany.

Only close observers of the Stalinist empire feared even in 1949 that this strange structure would last.

No one was really shocked by the actual founding of the GDR 30 years ago. This was something that could perhaps have been overcome in the course of the political development in Europe. It was something else that angered and dismayed especially the generation of returned soldiers which had just awoken from a kind of political trance.

They wanted to leave totalitarianism and its propaganda far behind them, they wanted to overcome it. Yet they saw that in this new state almost without transition similar symbols and rituals were introduced and decreed: hundreds of thousands of flapping red flags; songs of struggle from loudspeakers everywhere; banners with slogans on every corner; monumental, kitsch art just like the art of the Nazi era but this time known as "socialist realism."

The young were again put into uniforms and the 10 to 18 year olds were expected to engage in the same kind of activities as before 1945. Non-stop indoctrination and the house and block leaders of Nazi days were there again. The masses had to march on every holiday. As if nothing had changed since before the war.

It was this rather than the foundation of the state which soon made millions of people despair. They realised that here, too, a totalitarian system was being established and every German knew what effects such a system had on his or her personal life.

"The party, the party is always right . . ." these were the words that introduced the songs of struggle that droned from the loudspeakers before 1945.

Of course there was plenty of good will at first, too. And this good will meant that the GDR has also had its successes.

The standard of living slowly rose. Luxury goods can be bought, though only after long waits and then the quality is poor. It is also relatively easy to visit other East bloc countries. And when the East German citizen does so, he finds that he is considerably better off than his neighbours. Of course they gain a grim satisfaction from the comparison with the low standard of living in the Soviet Union. They have got used to the fact that despite all this they still have to queue up for many everyday items.

The towns and villages in the provinces are grey and desolate because hardly a house, a street or a path has been renovated since 1938 — but those who live there do not notice it so much. Only the visitor from the West is depressed and disturbed when he sees this.

The people in the GDR have made the best of the situation. They wait for a little car or perhaps even a little wooden house in the country. Nowhere else is the retirement into private life as widespread as here. Public sociability has died out because of the need to be permanently on the watch (and this also explains who there are so few pubs). People have also adapted mentally. Everyone knows he must behave when speaking to the cadre leader in order to avoid trouble. And the ambitious, who need the positive support of the party, have learnt to be very pliant.

The system in the GDR has not become more stable as a result. On the contrary, 30 years after its foundation the country is going through a deep inner crisis. This crisis is ideological rather than economic. The idea of socialism itself is played out, has become a hollow shell, no longer motivates. And everyone knows this.

Socialism was once the vision of a fairer distribution of chances and goods by means of the abolition of private ownership of the means of production. The means of production were to be taken over and controlled by the wage earners under a democratic system and with constant observance of the principle that economic activity had to follow social and humane ends.

This would then lead as it were inevitably to greater opportunities for the productive worker. This idea today is fascinating only where it has not been attempted in practice.

In practice the exact opposite has occurred: a new ruling class of officials with considerable privileges; a vast police and surveillance apparatus; a bureaucracy which smothers every form of initiative; low efficiency and major errors of investment in industry; a retrograde and culturally blunt social organisation; less personal freedom and human dignity.

The inner crisis of the GDR (and probably of the entire East bloc) is that after 30 years no one believes any more that there problems are just a passing phase caused by the war and the shortages which would soon pass.

Nearly everyone, right up to the highest levels, has realised that the wretchedness of this system is caused by the system itself.

Furthermore not one of the many attempts to establish "socialism with a human face", socialism with more freedom of speech and democratic rules, has succeeded. Three such attempts — in the GDR, in Hungary and in Czechoslovakia — were crushed by tanks and followed by new waves of repression. Walls, barbed wire and mines have become symbols of the systems fears for its own survival. The GDR in future will not tolerate any public statements by its critics.

The ideologues and executioners defend their power with every means at their disposal but the ideology is played out. However, no one dares admit this because it would mean the immediate collapse of the system. Neither the rulers in the GDR nor those in Moscow could permit this, for reasons of state and of power. So they continue to stick to the entire mechanism of orders and control, even to the empty ritual of propaganda. Empty shells are at least more stable than collapse and chaos.

All the leading figures in the Soviet regime came to the GDR for the anniversary celebrations, to demonstrate their support for their German comrades with fraternal embraces and backslapping. They all know that if the GDR began to topple the others would inevitably follow.

This presents the West with a paradox. It cannot for a moment accept this perfect system of unfreedom — and at the same time it cannot wish for this system to collapse in a political earthquake, because this could lead to a third world war. Between these two extremes it has to adopt a policy of small and sometimes the tiniest steps to help the people in both parts of the nation.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 October 1979)



Happy birthday

(Cartoon: Horst Haitzinger/tz München)

Rudolf Bahro



Niko Hübner

(Photos: dpa)

Two dissidents released on birthday amnesty

Two political prisoners have been released by the German Democratic Republic as part of an amnesty to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Neither Rudolf Bahro nor Niko Hübner were released to the West, but, according to a Bonn spokesman, they would be allowed exit papers if they applied for them.

It is said that Bahro wanted neither an earlier release nor to be "bought free" by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The release of the two has been greeted with satisfaction in the West. After all, Bahro would have had to spend seven and Hübner another four years in prison.

It is not clear at the moment what is to happen. But it would be best for them if they did come the West, because they will have a hard time if they stay in the GDR.

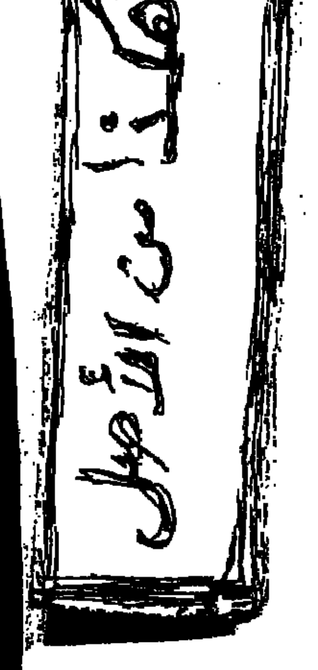
Both are convinced of their points of view but they know also where these convictions landed them. The GDR State Council expects good behaviour from every released prisoner for three years.

The amnesty decision states that if any of those released is convicted of a crime in the next three years he will also have to complete the rest of the sentence for which he was given amnesty. And given the tougher political laws since 1 August, Bahro and Hübner could be accused of "deliberate attempts to endanger the state" at any time.

It remains to be seen what they plan to do if they remain in the GDR and also what the GDR intends to do with them. A state that bullied Robert Havemann and Stefan Heym for years will certainly be able to tyrannise Rudolf Bahro and Niko Hübner further, even though neither party nor state can expect either of these critics ever to make their peace with the system of East German Communist Party, SED.

Hans-Ulrich Kersten

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 12 October 1979)



■ POLITICS

Hamburg mayor fears 'credibility gap'

The scandal of the Hamburg chemicals and poison gas firm Stolzenberg which Hamburg's mayor Klose originally condemned in strong terms brought him into a crisis only a short while later. Twice in the past fortnight he has considered resigning.

If Justice Senator Dahrendorf had not resigned, Klose would have had to go — an alternative described as sheer lunacy even by those in the Hamburg SPD who are not well-disposed to Klose. If Klose had resigned "we would have a situation here like in the Munich SPD; there is no alternative to this mayor at the moment," said a leading Hamburg SPD politician. Hamburg Land chairman Oswald Paulig urged Klose to abandon thoughts of resignation with the argument that he had been given the post of mayor by the voters and to a decisive extent by the party. "The mayor or a senator cannot simply resign when it suits him."



Hans-Ulrich Klose

Klose, on the other hand, felt "left out in the cold" by the party and the Senate because no one was prepared to take the consequences of the Stolzenberg scandal and resign — a move the mayor considered vital. "Whatever I may call for in future, I will no longer be credible."

This gap between the party and the mayor even though they are agreed on the basic aims of their policies is typical of many difficulties that have arisen in Hamburg in past months. Political clocks are running at different speeds. Often, the mayor comes up with all kinds of new ideas and attacks taboos, though he sometimes also claims credit for things that are obvious. Meanwhile, the city parliamentary party and the local SPD limp behind in grey everyday routine.

Mayor Klose is inscrutable and unpredictable at the moment. There is considerable speculation about his motives even among party colleagues. Some say that excessive ambition plays a part — ambition fanned by his personal advisors such as Senate spokesman and former deputy chief editor of Stern, Manfred Bissinger. Others suspect that his motives are mainly tactical, while others say Klose regards politics as an ego-trip, a means of self-realisation.

Up to summer of last year everything seemed to be going famously for Klose. He had just regained the absolute majority for the SPD in the city parliament, due largely to his personality. He had the reputation of being a moderate committed to the policies of his predecessors who had helped rebuild the city after the war and made the SPD in Hamburg into something like a state party.

Klose's rise to major political office was meteoric. A qualified lawyer specialising in youth problems, he joined the SPD in 1964. In 1966 he was already deputy chairman of the Young Socialists. In 1972, as deputy Land chairman of the SPD and MP in the city parliament, Klose was appointed deputy leader of the SPD in the city parliament. The same year he became a board member of the state building company SAG, having already been nominated Planning Commissar of the Justice Dpartment.

His political advance continued at an even faster speed. In 1973 the agile young politician became Senator of the Interior at the age of only 36. And in 1974 — the new term of parliament had only just begun — Klose succeeded the luckless Peter Schulz as mayor.

Klose had never avidly sought any of these posts. His friends say that "he always thought faster than others" and he undoubtedly has charisma despite his comparative youth. However, he was always prepared. He was politically ambitious from the start. "He wanted to be mayor right from the start" said a politician who has closely followed his career. Klose himself had not reckoned that it would happen so quickly.

At this time, most people regarded him as a technocrat. His critics on the left said he was a conformist. However, Klose had always kept contact with these left wingers, who were kept out of all offices and party positions by the conservative majority in the city parliamentary party. The beginning of the seventies, Klose played the role of mediator in which seemed a hopeless struggle between the party leadership and the Young Socialists who had drifted too far to the left. Nonetheless, Klose's political change of course after last year's election, especially the virtual abolition of the Extremists' Decree and his criticisms of economic subsidies, came as a surprise to many — including the FDP, the former coalition partners who failed to take the five per cent hurdle in the last city elections. FDP Land chairman and Bonn MP Helga Schuchardt complained: "Klose is now doing everything he would not do for us before."

Tactics certainly played a part in this change. But there has been a change of generations in the SPD leadership and among party conference delegates. The left, though with typically Hanseatic reserve, gained considerable ground in the new parliamentary party. There had to be changes if a confrontation between the wings of the party was to be prevented. "Integration" was the new motto.

The mayor is trying to escape from the trammels of the realpolitik behind which he hid for so long but which often only concealed conformity. The majority of the party is prepared to follow him. The difficulties begin when Klose goes off on personal flights of his own and loses contact with those on whom he depends.

Christian Haupt

(Deutsche Zeitung, 5 October 1979)

The successful Green List conservationist candidates in Bremen. From left, Peter Willers, Delphine Brox, Axel Adamietz, and Olaf Dinné. (Photo: dpa)

Environment group gets a foot in

The Green List won four places in the Bremen city parliament in the elections held on October 7. The first name on the party's list is that of Peter Willers, a 44 year-old former chairman of the National Association of Environmental Citizens' Campaigns. Olaf Dinné also won a place on the seat in the city parliament with the Green List. Both men were members of the SPD until quite recently. It remains to be seen whether the quiet, moderate Willers will be overshadowed by the lively mercurial Dinné in the city parliament. It is difficult to imagine two more different characters. Dinné attracted more attention during the election campaign though it is not clear which of the two is responsible for the various ideas in the Green List's "declaration of principles."

What distinguishes Dinné is that he has no truck whatever with communist chaos-merchants or with the extreme left of the SPD. He has even less truck

Continued on page 7

First woman speaker proves a point

Former Bundestag Speaker Annemarie Renger was 60 on 7 October.

In 1972, the SPD, as the strongest party in the Bundestag, had the right to nominate the Speaker for the first time and they chose Frau Renger. At the time, even many of her party colleagues were sceptical. After her four years in office, all these doubts had passed. She grew with her office and proved herself in the second highest political office in the state.

Annemarie Renger was the first woman to hold the post of Speaker. This itself did not make things easier. However, her charm, no-nonsense approach and energy soon helped her get the parliament under control and run its huge administration authoritatively. From being nicknamed Miss Bundestag at the beginning of her term of office, she became a great parliamentarian.

Frau Renger was never a typical feminist, even though she fought strongly for the equality of women. She is a woman who has worked in very different fields of politics, though never losing her awareness of the whole. Her conciliatory manner is highly rated even by her political opponents. She never hurts others, perhaps because she is very easily hurt herself.

Annemarie Renger, born in Leipzig on 7 October 1919, learnt a great deal from Kurt Schuhmacher, the first leader of the SPD after the war. His political views influenced her own greatly. Annemarie Renger is completely opposed to all forms of radicalism and therefore to any cooperation with communists. This attitude has earned her much wrath from the SPD left. However conciliatory she may be in her reserved amiability, she will not budge an inch on this point.




Annemarie Renger (Photos: Sven Simon)

Annemarie Renger spent her youth in Berlin, where, in her parent's home, she met former Reichstag Speaker Löbe whose successor she was to be decades later. Her husband was killed in the war. When the war ended she moved to Hanover, to the SPD executive, with her son. She only entered active politics after Schuhmacher's death. She became a member of the Bundestag in 1953 and has been an MP ever since.

She has held many different positions, she was a member of the SPD executive and presidium, of European parliamentary bodies and vice-president of the International Council of Social Democratic Women.

When she was elected Speaker, she resigned these positions. Since 1976 she has been deputy Speaker of the Bundestag, because the CDU/CSU, as the biggest party, nominated the Speaker. She continues to strengthen political awareness and consciousness of democratic principles shared by all the Bundestag parties.

When Annemarie Renger was nominated coalition candidate for the Presidency this summer, she proved her courage by standing even though defeat was inevitable. She knew the dignity of the highest office, required this of her.

Werner Bollmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 October 1979)

■ UNEMPLOYMENT

Employers unable to fill vacancies despite 3% dole rate

DIE ZEIT

Despite an unemployment rate of more than 3 per cent, employers in West Germany are often unable to fill vacancies.

The fact is that there is full employment. But to admit it would raise protests by trade unionists and those Social Democrat and Christian Democrat politicians who think in terms of absolute unemployment figures.

There are fewer than 800,000 out of work. Even this is too much, but it shows that the bleak forecast of CDU Secretary-General Heiner Geissler is not likely to be realised.

He said two years ago that we might have 2m jobless by 1980.

Another gloomy forecast was that of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin which anticipated 4m unemployed by the end of the next decade.

The DIW forecast should be taken seriously.

Contrary to all warnings and gloomy prophecies of the past two years, we have once more reached a point where we can speak of full employment.

FDP social affairs expert Hansheinrich Schmidt spoke of "almost" full employment two years ago when our jobless rate still hovered around the 1m mark.

Meanwhile, official figures have dropped by almost a quarter and his qualifying term "almost" should no longer apply.

Though the present unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent is well above the 1.5 per cent which former Labour Minister Walter Arendt considered full employment and even exceeds the International Labour Office figure of 3 per cent, the fact remains that employers seeking staff cannot find it. What else can this be called but overemployment?

The Labour Ministry does not quite see it in this light but says the labour market is "tight" and that the employment rate among men in August was "high across the board", being only 2.4 per cent.

The days of unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany due to economic conditions are evidently gone. Unemployment today, affects women, unskilled labour, the handicapped and older people plus those who are not particularly interested in work.

But even this unemployment is no longer as insurmountable as it seemed only two years ago.

Unemployment among women is diminishing faster than among men. The number of employed receiving social security payments rose by more than 404,000 last year, of which 220,000 were women and 184,000 men.

Even so, the proportion of women among the jobless is growing steadily: from 51.9 per cent in May 1978 via 55.5 per cent in May 1979 to 56 per cent in August. The number of women wanting part-time work (which is in short supply) is also growing. Some 160,000 would like such work for several hours a day or week. They account for about 35 per cent of the registered female unemployed.

But only 25,000 such vacancies are available, and many women who have to earn some extra money to keep their families above water have been hit hard. Others, who would like to improve their social security pensions, welcome a long stretch of unemployment.

Many unskilled people have already profited from the present boom. They were the first to be laid off during the recession. Subsequently, there was no need for them because of streamlining and automation in many companies. But now employers are happy to get unskilled workers and are even prepared to train — with or without subsidies from the Labour Office.

Thus the number of unskilled workers diminished by 16 per cent between May 1978 and May 1979. This figure is above the average drop in unemployment.

Especially with unskilled workers, the various government promotion measures have paid off: 90 per cent of the training cost is borne by the Labour Office if employers train their unskilled staff.

In regions where unemployment is particularly high, they can, in some instances, collect from the Labour Office up to 100 per cent of the wages paid to these people, and that for two years.

The position of the older unemployed is more precarious. Joblessness in the age group between 55 and 60 is 5.5 per cent and among those between 60 and 65 as much as 6 per cent. The number of these older jobless is still rising and their share of total unemployment has risen from 10.4 per cent in May 1975 to 16 per cent in May 1979. Neither the upswing that is gathering momentum nor various government measures have so far been able to check this.

Older people could probably best be helped by the parties to collective bargaining. The deal made in the tobacco industry and in breweries, whereby older people are offered more and more part-time jobs without income cuts, could serve as a good example for other branches of industry.

Another problem group is the handicapped. More than 250,000 of our unemployed are handicapped in one form or another — 20,000 more than in 1977. Though employers are under obligation to give one in 16 jobs to a handicapped person or pay a levy, many prefer to pay — and this includes the public sector.

The levies are used to finance additional employment programmes for the handicapped but all in all the situation has not improved.

Across the board, the position on the labour market looks rosy again. This makes it the more remarkable that the amount spent on keeping people in jobs is higher than ever before.

Last year is was DM 18.7 bn, and so far this year a whacking DM 21.4 bn. The costs are rising faster than unemployment diminishes: never before has full employment been so costly.

The Labour Office intends to spend DM 21.2 bn next year. And yet, the number of registered unemployed drawing benefits of and kind might well drop to below half a million in 1980.

This August, 519,000 jobless drew unemployment benefits.

Many disgruntled payers of unemployment insurance are likely to ask if such high spending is necessary. But any reduction would entail unpopular measures. And it is unlikely that a majority could be found in the Bundestag.

Unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany
Figures taken each May

Year	Total	Difficult to place
1977	947 000	417 000
1978	913 000	430 000
1979	776 000	417 000

Though politicians oppose this, it would be feasible, for instance, to make the payment of unemployment benefits contingent on further training or retraining.

Women allegedly or actually looking for part-time work could be made to attend training and motivation courses, or lose their benefits.

Labour Office representatives should attend hiring interviews between unemployed and a potential employer much more frequently than hitherto. This would enable them to weed out malingerers whose quota among the jobless has been estimated at a modest to 10 per cent by the Munich Infratest Institute.

And, finally, it should be reasonable to expect more occupational and geographic mobility from the jobless.

All this is feasible, but it will not materialise. This gives rise to the question concerning the next decade: if full employment is as costly as this, how much shall we have to pay for the next wave of unemployment which could well hit us one of these days?

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 5 October 1979)

Jobless run higher risk of developing mental ailments



Unemployment is one reason for an increase in mental ailments, delegates to a meeting of psychiatric experts have been told.

The conference also heard that:

Last year a record number of 23,000 emotionally handicapped people became "prematurely disabled".

And 14,000 emotionally handicapped people killed themselves last year.

The meeting, of the German Society for Social Psychiatry, in Heidelberg, heard that the disadvantage of this group of handicapped, compared with other groups, is that they tend to blame themselves for their condition.

But the delegates agreed that people should not blame themselves, even when their condition is due to drug abuse, alcoholism and the like.

Rehabilitation for the physically and mentally handicapped has been of a high standard in the Federal Republic of Germany since the late 50s.

While all that is necessary there in the next few years is to make minor improvements and close certain gaps, there is no effective and integrated rehabilitation system in operation for the large group of the emotionally handicapped.

These were the conclusions arrived at by doctors, psychologists and social workers at the congress.

The heavy increase in emotional ailments in the past few years and its causes were the dominating subjects of the congress.

Some 8m Germans consulted a doctor about psychological complaints in 1978, and the number of people officially certified as disabled because of psychological and psychosomatic disorders is rising from year to year.

British social psychiatrist Dr Douglas Bennet said about the alarming figures that there was no evidence that stress caused the disorders. On the other hand, he termed it "obvious that unemployment causes psychological ailments."

During the depression of the 30s, be said, a group of researchers in Vienna for the first time isolated this cause of the disorders. The mass unemployment in some countries now has obviously made the disease virulent again.

The congress put forward recommendations of which it hopes that they will provide new impulses for the occupational and social integration of the emotionally disabled. Their demands include a fair chance for these people in making a new start.

Integration, the congress was told, meant participation in the work process because there was no alternative in an industrialised society to the state of being employed.

The congress warned, however, against expecting full integration into the work process. This would overtax the handicapped and therefore alternative forms of occupation would have to be found that would enable even those who are limited in their ability to work to relate to society.

This was essential if the person to be rehabilitated is to regain his self confidence.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 October 1979)

FINANCE

Optimism over the dollar, but foreign exchange markets disagree

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer believes that the dollar cannot fall much further. And he finds it hard to understand why the whole world is worried about the currency.

Asked whether he had discussed the dollar weakness at the International Monetary Fund conference in Belgrade, he replied: "What weakness?" Only recently, he talked to old trade union friends from the United States and they worked out together that the dollar was undervalued against the deutschemark by about 20 to 30 per cent in terms of buying power. He therefore does not believe that the dollar can fall much further.

This optimism marked Herr Matthöfer's entire stay in Yugoslavia's capital where the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were meeting to try and cure the dollar. The success was moderate.

In early October, the dollar continued its plunge. The Hamburg meeting late in September of Chancellor Schmidt, US Secretary of the Treasury William Miller and Federal Reserve Bank President Paul A. Volcker ("We are agreed on the necessity of a strong and stable dollar and will cooperate to achieve this") made little impression on dollar holders.

It was at Helmut Schmidt's suggestion that the two Americans stopped over in Hamburg en route to Belgrade to discuss the dollar issue with Hans Matthöfer, Bundesbank President Otmar Emminger and his deputy, Karl Otto Pohl, as well as the chancellor. In the course of the talks Mr Miller said that the Carter Administration wanted to stabilise the dollar again.

The foreign exchange market seemed unimpressed, reacting more to America's 13.3 per cent inflation rate (the true reason for the jitters on exchange markets) than to Carter's undertaking. The inflation rate further aggravated the discomfiture that had been spreading since the summer for various reasons, among them the Iranian revolution, the enormous oil price increases, the temporarily reduced interest rate gap between New York and European money markets and, finally, the lack of progress in developing a sensible energy policy.

Hans-Joachim Schreiber of the Dresdner Bank: "Every bit of bad news from the United States depresses the dollar and makes the gold price soar."

Since President Carter is unsuccessful in almost everything he tackles, bad news from the States in coming in fast and furious.

Among the more than 6,000 delegates and observers in Belgrade (bankers from all parts of the world used the conference as a meeting place for the world's financiers and their debtors) the central theme was therefore how best to overcome the turbulence caused by the dollar.

The remedies tried so far have not been exactly successful.

Since last year, the Americans have had props in the form of such hard currencies as yen and deutschemark with which to shore up the sagging dollar. The Federal Reserve Bank and the Bundesbank have been buying dollars for deutschemarks to support it. But since the yen has also weakened, the Japanese ammunition can only be termed blanks.



In fact, only the deutschemark is still a suitable prop. As a result, the dollar-deutschemark exchange rate has become the decisive element of the present international monetary system.

The Bundesbank and the Bonn Government are not pleased about this. The DM28bn used by the Bundesbank to bolster the dollar since July has inflated Germany's money supply and is counteracting our stability policy. These dollar purchases are harmful to us without doing much good to the US currency in the long run.

Bundesbank President Emminger has stressed time and again that there is little anyone can do against a market trend. Intervention has proved ineffectual. All that is achieved by it is to smooth out excessive fluctuations.

As a result, the Bundesbank is steering a course between the impossible task of keeping the dollar afloat by intervention and the radical suggestion to let it fall as it may.

Discussions on the periphery of the Belgrade conference showed that the number of those advocating total discontinuation of support purchases is growing. They are prepared to put up with a temporary setback to our competitiveness and increased turbulence within the European Monetary System because they believe that the dramatic drop of the dollar exchange rate would induce the Americans to get to the root of the problem by combating inflation.

Others go even further. They advocate a merciless reduction of dollar holdings throughout the world.

Like with the German currency reform in 1948, they would like to see the American money supply reduced and new money issued in a considerably smaller amount.

Eberhard Zinn of *Deutsche Girozentrale* intends to make a proposal to that effect public shortly.

Bankers have embraced these ideas simply because they are sick and tired of alleviating symptoms rather than getting to the root of the illness.

Helmut Geiger, president of the Savings Bank Association, has also arrived at the conclusion that, in view of diminishing faith, only truly convincing measures can help reduce the inflation rate and the balance of payments deficit.

This is the reason why the new instrument discussed among the decision-making committees of IMF members is viewed with extreme scepticism.

With a great deal of grey matter, experts are preparing a so-called substitution account. The basic idea dates back to 1972 when a proposal was put forward that all dollar reserves that have accumulated at the central banks in Europe and Japan be exchanged against IMF special drawing rights (SDRs). SDRs are, to all intents and purposes, vouchers for hard currencies.

This ambitious plan is not to be rehashed. Instead, central banks with high dollar reserves would be given an opportunity voluntarily to exchange some of these holdings for SDRs.

But anybody accepting this swap offer with current interest rates being what they are would be out of his mind.

This can easily be demonstrated: 100 dollars invested in three-month US bonds in 1974 would have earned 37 dollars by today. The same amount invested in SDRs would have earned only 32 dollars. But anyone who invested those 100 dollars in three-month German deutschemark bonds would have made a profit of just under 74 dollars.

Even if SDRs were to beat interest at the prevailing interest rates of the major industrialised countries, there would be little incentive to exchange them for dollars because SDRs are based on a basket of 16 currencies, among them the most important ones of Europe, the yen, two Opec currencies and the dollar. Due to its dollar content, this basket is therefore also subject to the American currency's depreciation.

This disadvantage could only be eliminated if America guaranteed a specific exchange rate for the dollar. But the Americans are unwilling to bear such a guarantee all by themselves. They would like to spread the burden over several shoulders — especially the German ones.

Not even Herr Matthöfer believes the bugbear which sits in the details will be overcome by April 1980 when the Interim Committee is to meet in Hamburg. A great deal of moneary exorcism would be necessary before this instrument could become operational.

Should it work after all, the substitution account would provide a slight relief for the deutschemark that has more and more assumed the role of a reserve currency during the past few years.

Today, some 40 billion deutschemarks are held as reserves by various central banks.

Once foreigners in monetary terms succeed in laying their hands on large sums of deutschemarks — be they private or central banks — the monetary scope of decision for the reserve currency country will be narrowed. Neither the Bundesbank nor the Bonn Government are exactly enthusiastic about such prospects.

As a result, the Germans have so far been cautiously positive in their assessment of this instrument. Getting too deeply involved could force them to make undesirable concessions, as for instance to the effect that they would permit themselves to be burdened by the Americans with a large share of the exchange risk offset.

Bonn therefore issued a directive that this issue should neither be promoted nor blocked in Belgrade.

Since the Paris meeting a couple of weeks ago of the five major industrialised countries there has been a slight change: the Americans and the Japanese have been ardent advocates of the substitution account — and ever since, Herr Matthöfer has also shown a great deal of interest, saying: "We are a medium-sized country and are not at all interested in taking on reserve currency functions. This will have to be done by the United States." This was open public relations work on behalf of the new instrument.

The developing countries used the new plans for a bit of a blackmail attempt. The Group of 24, the Third World competitor of the industrialised countries' Group of 10, put forward its demands on the eve of the Belgrade conference. At the same time, the 24 threatened to reject the substitution account if these demands were not met.

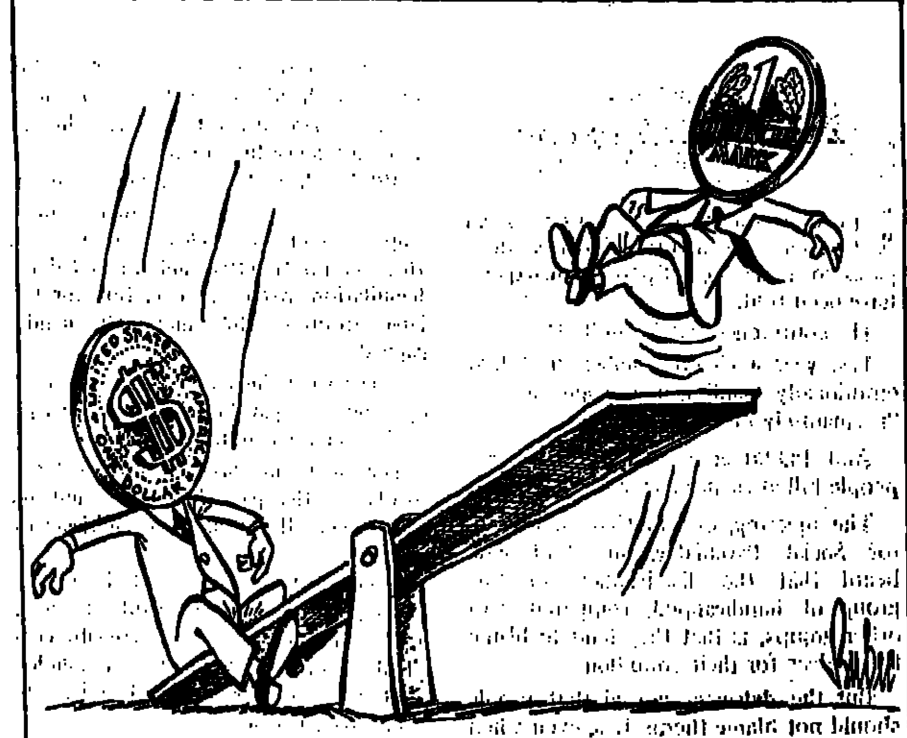
The demands themselves are not new: The Monetary Fund is to boost international liquidity in favour of the developing countries.

Monetary policy as development policy is simply a rehash of an old theme. The industrialised countries are against it — and with good reason.

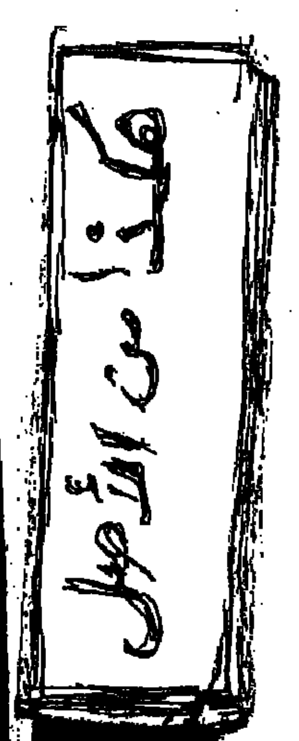
While international bodies are using worthless tools in trying to repair the monetary system a true reform is taking place in reality: the depreciation of the dollar since the early 70s has driven such strong currencies as the deutschemark, the yen and the Swiss franc into a new international function.

The Swiss franc is too small for a reserve currency, and the yen is too weak at present. But the deutschemark, thanks to its stability, is growing into exactly this role, whether its guardians in Frankfurt and Bonn like it or not. Since they want to continue their stability policy they should accept this consequence because financial pundits throughout the world hold that the route via the artificial money represented by the SDRs leads into a cul de sac. *Rudolf Herlt*

(Die Zeit, 5 October 1979)



(Cartoon: Buber/Nordwest Zeitung)



BUSINESS

Shady dealers hit futures market in commodities

Ewald Maisenbacher was taking a holiday on the island of Sylt when the police arrested him. It is alleged that Maisenbacher, 34, "diverted" funds of clients of his company that should have gone to commodity brokers.

He is general manager of RMH Rohstoffmakler GmbH, which has branches in Frankfurt and many other German cities.

The case is one of hundreds involving the futures market in commodities. In Frankfurt alone, about 60 investigations into alleged fraud in futures and involving millions of deutschemarks are being investigated.

But though Frankfurt is the centre of these fraudulent companies, more and more of them are settling in Munich, Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart. Lately, they have even been moving to medium-sized cities and rural areas, probably in the hope that their shady practices will not be as readily recognisable there.

The investor, be he in the city or in the country, should be particularly careful with commodities futures. For one thing, the risk is considerable even when dealing with reputable brokers; and there is always a chance of falling into the clutches of sharp operators.

The trick they use to lure gullible customers is always the same. Glossy brochures and expensive advertisements promise high and absolutely safe returns. Once a potential customer has taken the bait he is softened up by the company's brokers.

The simplest and most commonly used method is to kindle latent or manifest fears in the potential customer about dwindling raw materials supplies. Another favourite spectre is inflation. The customer is told that he cannot but profit from a deal.

But only these shady companies can be certain of profits. Most of them have their registered offices in Lichtenstein. Their capital is usually in the region of 20,000 Swiss francs and all of them maintain representative offices in Germany under impressive sounding names.

The firms are listed in the companies register and their representatives like to point to their excellent bank connections — even crooks can have bank accounts.

Once the spadework is done the salesmen swarm out and start canvassing. They are glib talkers who know how to get their foot in the door. There is hardly a psychological trick they do not use.

These salesmen — there are conspicuously many former IOS (Investors Overseas Services) representatives among them — are the mainstay of the organisation and earn accordingly, monthly incomes of DM100,000 being no rarity.

Once the client has been hooked and has paid over the cash, mostly several thousand deutschemarks, the money is not forwarded to a broker but disappears abroad through murky channels.

The customer meanwhile receives fictitious statements of account telling him how well he is doing with his investment. And when he finally notices that there is something fishy it is usually



too late. The crooked company has moved on to new pastures and so have the salesmen.

Another and perhaps even more dangerous variant of this game actually uses a small part of the investor's money to make genuine deals. These people are more dangerous because they initially permit their client to make profits, thus lulling him into feeling secure. Company representatives then press the client not to withdraw profits but reinvest them together with additional money, promising particularly high profits.

If the customer resists this spiel, insisting on withdrawing principal and profits, he is paid with funds from other customers. As a result, the crooks can go on operating for a long time before the house of cards collapses. But even then the swindlers are usually faster than the police.

With it all, futures deals are a risky business when working with a reputable company.

Commodities brokers and exchanges operating with futures involving copper, agricultural produce (such as wheat, pork or fruit juice concentrates), etc. exist throughout the world. Wherever there is trade there is speculation with rising or falling prices.

The futures business has many varieties and is a science in its own right. Oversimplified, the speculator sells goods he does not possess and buys others that he will never see. He deals in contracts specifying the quality and minimum quantity of a commodity, known as the contract unit.

At the New York Commodoties Futures Exchange, the contract unit for cocoa is 30,000 pounds; for fresh eggs 18,000 dozen; for wheat 5,000 bushels and for silver 5,000 ounces.

The contract unit is indivisible and can be bought or sold singly or in multiples.

The goods stipulated in the contract are to be supplied or bought after a specified time, say two, four or more months.

The actual procedure is as follows: a speculator buys a wheat contract in February for October. This gives him legal title and an obligation. He is entitled to receive the agreed quantity of wheat in October and obliged to buy it at a stipulated price.

Of course, the speculator himself is not interested in the wheat. He sells the contract before due date at a moment when the commodity price is above that named in the deal.

The new buyer then assumes all rights and obligations. But he, too, is a speculator (in some instances also a dealer who actually wants the wheat).

Since the speculator is usually not interested in taking delivery of the goods, he does not have to pay the full price but buys on margin, usually between 5 and 15 per cent of the amount of the contract.

If the price rises by the amount of the margin he has already made a 100 per cent profit. By the same token, if it falls by the amount of the margin, his losses will also be 100 per cent, plus brokerage fees.

The brokerage fees result from the fact that the speculator does not himself buy or sell, the man-in-the-street having no access to the exchanges and the broker acting as go-between.

In the past few years, many reputable brogerage firms have settled in Germany, all of them subsidiaries of American or British firms. They are absolutely above-board, though the customer must always be aware of the enormous risks inherent in any dealing of this type.

Peter Roller

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 October 1979)

Environment group

Continued from page 4

with the extreme right. He once said of Franz Josef Strauss that such an enemy "that we vehemently discussed whether we should shoot at him or organise resistance to him." Dinné decided against shooting. Now he believes that "there is a Strauss in everyone" but that the SPD's fixation on "bogeyman Strauss" is an indication of its inability to solve any of the problems now facing us.

Olaf Dinné 44, an architect, was a member of the SPD for fifteen years. He became chairman of the local party branch in the old centre of Bremen, which is strongly left-wing. He was soon involved in internal party disputes, which played a major part in the founding of the Green Movement. Dinné split the apparently united ranks of the Bremen Social Democrats some years ago and, among other things prevented the already-agreed building of a street through the Ostertor area of Bremen.

Dinné became known outside Bremen for his fight against the "entanglement" of the SPD with city and state institutions. While still an SPD member, he wrote a pamphlet attacking "bought people's representatives in the party and the administration" and large companies — and here he was aiming mainly at builders *Neue Heimat* who wanted to make profits and destroy the historic city centre. The remark about "bought people's representatives" went to the Supreme Court, which rejected a demand by the Bremen Senate for the retraction of this phrase. When this judgment was passed after years of litigation Dinné said: "The legal system is always coming up with surprises." The Bremen Social Democrats maintained an embarrassed silence.

These successes and his new seat as Green List MP cannot disguise the fact that Dinné is sometimes, not without reason, regarded as a "political clown." If he cannot refrain from some of this clowney, he will damage the Green List's image. *Wolfgang Heyen*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 October 1979)

The growing cost of public waste

Germany is full of monuments to bungling such as hospitals, city halls, housing projects, indoor pools, schools and universities, says the Taxpayers' Association in its latest edition of "Public Sector Waste."

Though only 12 months have passed since the previous edition, so much new material on public waste has been accumulated that, as the editors put it, "it was extremely difficult to decide what to include in the publication."

The list ranges from a mammoth hospital in Aachen to the poorly planned indoor swimming pool in Wunstorf.

Take Aachen: "The concrete monster of a hospital is becoming a public scandal." Though earmarked as a DM550m project, the thing now costs DM1.5bn. Moreover, it will operate at a loss because, according to the Federal Audit Office, 1,000 of the 1,562 beds will remain unoccupied. Moreover, the planners miscalculated and the foundation sank, which will cost the taxpayer and addition DM14.5m.

The Wunstorf indoor swimming pool is another example: "A firm of architects found 371 deficiences, which looks very much like a record. Although the troubles with the Wunstorf pool began as far back as September 1974, culminating in 1976 in the collapse of the roof over the non-swimmers' pool, no culprit has been found as yet. The cost of correcting the deficiencies is estimated by experts at DM2.8m, close to 50 per cent of the total price tag of DM6m."

And a few more cases: the city of Siegen, (pop. 120,000) built North Rhine-Westphalia's most expensive gymnasium for DM3.7m. But nothing works. The floor has buckled and continues to do so; as a result, much of the apparatus could not be installed. The insulation is not working and there is constant dust falling off the ceiling, making gymnastics anything but a pleasure.

And then there is the Berlin Schmargendorf autobahn bridge. Built for DM6m, the bridge now has to be torn down because the planners miscalculated the temperature difference between the surface layers. The total cost of this foul-up is estimated at between DM30 and DM40m.

They city of Kassel pretty much takes the cake with "the world's most expensive pedestrian zone", the Kassel-Calden airport, built at a cost of DM25m and never used except for occasional motor racing. The annual operating losses are DM1m. But this has not served as a lesson. Only 60 kilometers from Kassel as the crow flies, the Paderborn-Lippstadt airport was built at a cost of DM24m. Experts say that it will suffer the same fate as the Kassel-Calden airport.

The blunders in planning and building the Bonn Chancellery and the National Garden Show have meanwhile become notorious throughout the world.

Somewhat less known is the cost explosion for the renovation of the *Deutsches Theater* in Munich. When the decision was made to renovate, costs were estimated at DM3.5m. So far, the work has cost close to DM35m.

Commented Munich's Deputy Mayor, Helmut Gittel: "King Ludwig's castles also cost millions, and now we're happy to have them."

The Taxpayers' Association suggests the introduction of a special public prosecutor and new laws to deal with such cases as part of the Criminal Code. The purpose would be to assure the proper use of public funds, for which there is no provision in the present Criminal Code. This would make it a punishable crime to squander public funds. *dpa*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 October 1979)

■ CONSERVATION

Pioneer plant disposes of sewage using a bed of reeds

Othfresen, a village near Goslar in the Harz mountains, is a pioneer in biological engineering. It boasts the world's first sewage purification unit that does it strictly nature's way.

There is no expensive machinery and no chemicals, just a 2½-acre bed of reeds that is both more reliable and much less expensive than the usual sewage farm.

It is the brainchild of Professor Reinhold Kickuth, head of ecological chemistry at Kassel University, who has been interested in alternative sewage disposal for the past 15 years.

He launched his pilot project in Othfresen five years ago, but shunned the limelight until recently so as to check and recheck his findings.

They have also been checked by the Lower Saxon state government authorities.

But experts and local government officers from all over Europe are now treading a beaten path to Witzenhausen, near Kassel, to be shown around the bullrushes.

Most are impressed. They include Hans Grünewald of the Hesse local government authority association who plan to urge the state government in Wiesbaden to subsidise local authorities that experiment with reeds.

The Othfresen reed bed is the only one of its kind so far. The village has a population of 2,500 and their combined sewage is pumped into 10,000 square metres of Fragmatis australis, an Australian reed that for decades has flourished all over the world.

Its roots extend 1.20 m (50in) into the subsoil, and this is where it all happens.

Sewage is channelled along a concrete gully 60 m (197ft) long and 80 cm (32in) wide, then overspills into the reed bed. From then on, nature takes charge.

At the other end of the reed bed pure water flows into a stream. Its purity has not only been tested and confirmed time and again by laboratory analysis, it is even drinkable.

It's the roots that do it, Professor Kickuth says. Bacteria that live among the roots make short shrift of organic ingredients in the sewage.

All traces of impurity vanish. Carbonic acid escapes. Phosphates are absorbed by the soil.

A conventional sewage farm for a catchment area of about 2,500 people costs about DM3 m to install and a further DM300,000 in annual running costs. Its life-span will be 30 to 40 years.

The Othfresen reed cost about DM1 m to lay. Annual running costs should amount to DM20,000 or so. Its life-span will be maybe 1,000 years.

This is the length of time it should take for the soil to be saturated [with] phosphates and no longer able to absorb the surplus from sewage or effluent.

Professor Kickuth claims his alternative sewage disposal has a clear edge over the conventional sewage farm [for] communities of up to 10,000 people.

The reed bed will continue to prove an economic alternative for catchment areas of up to 100,000 people, although the advantage is marginal at the upper end of she scale.

For larger or more densely-populated areas it is no longer viable. The reed beds required would be too large.

Natural sewage purification has [an] added advantage. Ten years ago the [area] that now houses the Othfresen reed [bed] was virtual wasteland.

Now it is a wildlife wonderland [rich] in water and marsh birds. It has [even] been listed as a nature reserve.

Albert Bechtold

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 October 1979)

Rethink urged as waste output grows bigger

"What we have tried to do is to make waste economic," Guido Brunner told the International Recycling Congress at West Berlin's Kongresshalle.

"That is the exact opposite of economy."

Dr Brunner is the EEC commissioner responsible for energy and research policy. He shared the delegates' view that an agonising reappraisal must be made of the consumer society.

We must take a fresh look at our way of life and methods of production, he said, especially in Europe, where both energy and raw materials are in short *supply.*

Current annual waste output in the EEC is prodigious: 90 million tonnes of household garbage, 950 million tonnes of farm waste, 120 million tonnes of industrial waste and 200 million tonnes of sewage sludge.

These quantities are all increasing at [a] steady 3 per cent per year. "If the trend continues unabated," he said, "it will not be long before entire areas are [on] the trash heap."

At present a mere 2 per cent of European R & D spending goes on recycling garbage. Yet garbage could meet 2 per cent of Europe's energy requirements.

It could also supply 75 per cent [of] the continent's copper requirements, [...] per cent of its aluminium, 45 per cent of its lead and 58 per cent of its paper [...].

Recycling is only carried out to a great extent in a handful of countries [...]

Continued on page 9

■ TECHNOLOGY

Now it's telephone data by talking computer

"Guten Tag, my name is Samt. I am a computer and am talking to you using artificial speech. You have a choice of three programmes."

Samt is a computer telephone answering system unveiled by Deutsche Bundespost at the International Telecommunications Fair in Geneva, Switzerland.

It has a grating voice but what it says when you listen to the receiver is otherwise clear and readily comprehensible. *The only letter of the alphabet it seems* to have trouble with is "r." Samt is not keen on the uvular version.

"We have no ambitions of reproducing a perfect human voice," says Herbert Wolf of the Bundespost's speech processing research unit in Darmstadt.

"Samt's voice must be clearly recognisable as a computer voice yet at the same time sound pleasant and be readily understandable."

All sounds are synthetic, or machine-made. The process was devised at Bundespost telephones HO in Darmstadt. Samt stands for "Sprachausgabe in Multiplextechnik" (Speech Articulation by Multiplex Technology).

The technique consists of assembling sounds as though they were newspaper snippets. Assembly is supervised by a computer.

Subscribers will be able to dial via a standard keyboard telephone for the information they require, say the dialling code for France and the cost of a call.

A second computer will decode the order and relay it to a digital data storage unit, where the information will be put together.

At present it should read: "The dialling code is 0033 and each call costs DM1.15 per minute."

In this way a link is established between human being and computer via language. The machine will be adopted to man and not vice-versa, as the Darmstadt boffins put it.

At Geneva three verbal exchanges were on trial. The computer introduces itself and explains how it works as the first of the three.

The second is a series of answers to enquiries as to countries that can be dialled direct. There are 59 of them at present. Dialling code and cost are also stated.

The third, mainly a plaything specially devised for the Geneva fair, was a reproduction landing on the Moon.

The speech machine, or synthesizer, is capable of articulating 32 different messages by multiplex technology on one channel at millisecond intervals.

Speech synthesis must naturally be worked out beforehand, but a set of 45 different sounds is enough to reproduce the entire German language.

When a human voice articulates about 12 sounds per second the computer needs an electronic storage capacity of 100 bits per second.

Bit, short for binary digit, is the individual computer information unit. A further 50 bits per second are needed to reproduce speech rhythm, melody and intonation, or prosodic parameters, as computer scientists choose to call them.

Each second of speech thus calls for about 150 bits, or about 1/500th of the data needed to record spoken speech on, say, magnetic tape. So digital technology has clear advantages.

The sounds of human speech cannot simply be reproduced, however, Herr Wolf says. The result would be intolerable, monotonous gibberish.

No-one always articulates one particular sound in the same way. In standard German there is, for instance, a world of difference between the letter "r" als pronounced in Winter and gross.

This is why Samt has such trouble with "r" in particular. It is an awkward letter by any standard.

To produce a synthetic language that is easy on the ear the 45 basic sounds must be accompanied by about 1,200 intermediates.

Computer stored, the 1,200 are electronically emitted by activating and controlling filters.

These intermediate sounds that depend on changes in position of the tongue or mouth can be more or less imitated by playing with electronic filters. The result is certainly an almost natural sounding voice.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 October 1979)

Waste output

Continued from page 8

Waste disposal in one way or another enjoys priority in most countries.

Yet there is a growing trend towards greater use of garbage, especially industrialised countries with few natural resources of their own, according to Professor Thomé-Koszmiensky, who organised the congress.

He is head of the department of environmental engineering at West Berlin University of Technology.

Incineration is, perhaps, the classic recycling method, generating energy from garbage. Improvements in recent years have made it more efficient and less harmful to the environment.

But it is only one option. Others include industrial production of biogas from domestic, industrial or farm waste.

As for recycling raw materials from garbage, the United States seems to have made most progress so far, boasting sorting units capable of handling up to 2,000 tons of waste per day.

Europe as yet has only four such units, all in Italy. In West Germany, on the other hand, strenuous efforts are made to collect waste paper and glass separately. More than 400,000 tons of glass are expected to be recycled in the this country in 1979.

The congress also dealt with raw materials obtained by composting household garbage, agricultural waste, the use of plastics waste and the recycling of automobiles.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 October 1979)

Bid to launch European space rocket

Europe's rocket age may finally get off to a flying start from the Ariane launching pad in French Guyana early in December when the snow clouds gather over the ten member-countries of ESA, the European Space Agency.

If it does, it will not be the first attempt. The first European rocket proved a failure after several fruitless bids.

But early this month the three-stage Ariane arrived at Kourou, near the Equator. It was built in all ten member-countries under the aegis of CNES, France's National Space Research Centre.

Launching is scheduled for some time between 8 and 18 December. Six years after the go-ahead was given at ESA headquarters in Paris it will be the first of four scheduled take-off bids.

Research and development will have cost DM1.95bn. Total expenditure, shared by Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, will total DM2.6bn.

West German companies associated with the project include Erno, Dornier, MAN and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm. Erno in Bremen have been responsible for assembling the complete second stage of the rocket.

More than 60 companies all over Europe have contributed towards a launcher rocket that ESA envisages as putting commercial satellites into orbit in the 80s.

Ariane is suitable both for low orbits and for varying payload weights on missions to Venus or Mars. It can also put a 1.7-ton satellite into terrestrial orbit at an altitude of 36,000km (22,500 miles).

It is 47m (154ft) tall, as against Saturn V's 111m (364ft) and weighs 207 tons, making it a middleweight among the various rocket systems.

Yet each of the four Viking V propulsion units in the first stage packs the punch of a Concorde supersonic jet.

What mattered where the European member-countries were concerned was that they were all capable of building satellites yet none had a launcher rocket that worked.

Besides, they were all keen to corner a share of the world market for space shuttle and similar transport systems.

In the past Germany or France, which is footing two thirds of the Ariane bill, have had to buy US rockets and use US launching pads for their satellites.

In the 80s Europe hopes to move into this side of the business itself. It should prove a serious challenge to the United States, which has developed the Columbia space shuttle for the same ourpose.

Even before the first Ariane has been successfully launched the project seems destined to be as successful as the European Airbus.

Eleven firm orders have already been placed for the Ariane to launch various telecommunications and meteorological satellites.

Over the next 8 years ESA expects there to be about 40 take-offs, each costing between DM43m and DM75m, excluding satellite development.

Prospective clients include Arab and Latin American countries, and already a further development of the Ariane is at the planning stage.

Thrust is to be improved to put two satellites into simultaneous orbit. Meteosat, the European weather satellite, is to be launched into space during the present Ariane's trial stage in mid-1980.

Another Intelsat V telecom and TV relay satellite is also to be launched by Ariane.

The next major test of Ariane's prowess will the Marecs programme, a satellite system to maintain contact between ships at sea and ground stations.

Ariane is to launch Marecs satellites in October 1980 and at the beginning of 1981.

Launchings have also been booked for a geo-satellite and at the beginning of 1981.

Launchings have also been booked for a geo-satellite and ECS 1 and 2, two more TV and telecom satellites.

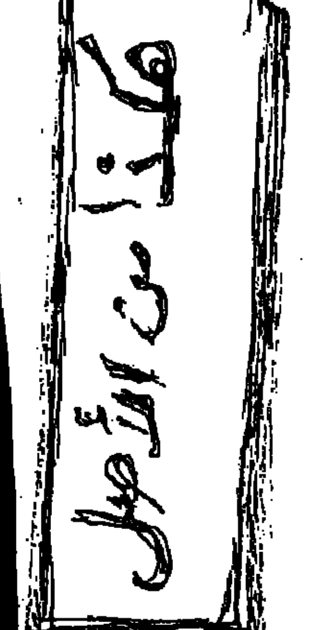
In the mid-80s national spacecraft are scheduled for launching. They will include a French and a German TV satellite to enable the two countries to establish a direct exchange of programmes.

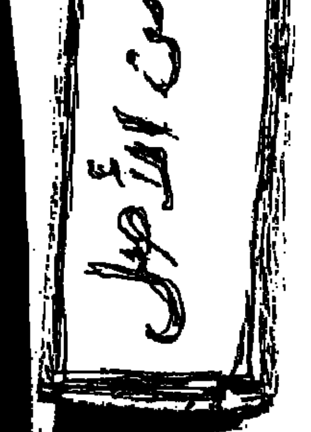
dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 October 1979)



Ariane on the way to French Guyana and take-off. (Photo: ERNO)





■ LITERATURE

Language Academy was founded on Goethe's birthday

A group of prominent German writers founded the German Academy of Language and Literature on 28 August 1949 at a gathering in the Frankfurt Paulskirche to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Goethe's birth. Adolf Grimme, who made the main speech, read the proclamation and stated the aims of the academy thus: "The German Academy of Language and Literature will not be a merely administrative body. It will be a meeting place for all those who in language and mind seek order but of confusion, measure from chaos. It is to be a place of work and, if its work is fruitful, it ought to become the intellectual representative of Germany, similar to the Academie Francaise."

The new academy had nothing: no money, no house, no statutes. Its first president, Rudolf Pechel, who was elected at the first meeting of academy members in March 1950, lived in Stuttgart and at the beginning it looked as if Stuttgart would become the academy's headquarters.

In autumn 1950, Kasimir Edschmidt from Darmstadt was elected to the presidium and the ties to Darmstadt became closer.

On 15 March 1951 the Hessian Minister of Education, the Darmstadt City Council and the German Academy of Language and Literature signed an agreement whereby the Georg Büchner Prize became a literature prize to be awarded by the Academy.

The prize had previously been a Hessian prize for musicians, painters, writers and sculptors.

Darmstadt also became the headquarters of the academy, which from then on was housed in the Ernst Ludwig House, the house of the former artists' colony on the Mathildenhöhe. It was destroyed during the war but rebuilt at the beginning of the fifties. In October 1971 the Academy moved again, to the Glückert house, like the Ernst Ludwig House a Jugendstil building by Joseph Maria Olbrich.

Ernst Johann, general secretary of the Academy until 1978, writes of those early years: "Although the Academy had strong ties to Darmstadt it emphasised that it was a German national organisation."

Dr Gerhard Storz, from 1966 to 1972 president of the academy and today a member of the presidium, recalls: "The Academy was founded because authors wanted to be in contact with one another and discuss the literary situation. This was the basis of the academy's strength, this is what enabled it to achieve what it has achieved."

Of course statutes were worked out for the Academy:

"The aim of the Academy is to represent German writing at home and abroad and to work for the correct and cultivated use of the German language in the arts and the sciences, in public and private use."

Among the main tasks of the academy are:

- To encourage valuable work by awarding prizes or by other forms of support.
- To publish worthwhile literary, cultural and linguistic works which commercial publishers would not publish.
- To state its point of view on questions of intellectual life.
- To look at the linguistic aspect of teaching in all schools.
- To cultivate relations with similar organisation at home and abroad with a view to achieving its aims."

Peter de Mendelssohn, president of the Academy since 1975, describes its sense and purpose precisely:

"The Academy is the only German Academy that is not split up into sections dealing with various cultural activities but is solely devoted to German language and literature.

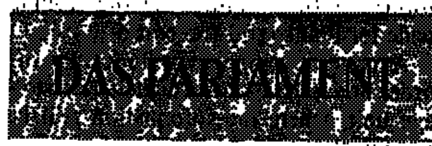
"It is not a state institution. It is financed both from public and from private funds but it owes no allegiance to any government, political party, corporation or grouping whatever.

"It represents no private interests. Its members receive no salary, they work voluntarily, independently and on their own responsibility for the good of the academy. Its productions are devoted to all genres of literature and so has poets, dramatists, essayists, journalists, historians, literature specialists and linguists among its members.

"To be elected to the academy, a person must have produced a work which has enriched the German language and literature or shown definite signs of the capacity to produce such a work. The aim of these two factors — criteria for election and limited membership — is to ensure that our members constitue a convincing representation of contemporary literature."

The members of the academy (at the moment there are 130 members, 75 ordinary and 55 corresponding members, i.e. members living abroad) meet twice a year, in spring and in autumn. The spring meetings are always held outside Hesse and the autumn meetings are held in Darmstadt, where they have been held ever since the Academy took over the awarding of the Büchner Prize. In the 30 years of its existence the Academy has held public working sessions on language and literature.

The most important paragraph of the Georg Büchner Prize statutes says: "Eligible for this prize are authors who write in German whose work is of special excellence and who play a major part in modern German cultural life." Until



1976 the prize was worth DM10,000. Since 1977 it has been worth DM20,000.

The Johann-Heinrich Merck Prize for Literary Criticism and Essay was established in 1964, at the same time as the Sigmund Freud Prize. It is awarded for criticism and essays and is named after Johann-Heinrich Merck (1741—1791), a writer of masterly criticism and essays. Up to 1976 the prize was worth DM6,000. Since 1977 its value has been raised to DM10,000.

The Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific prose is awarded "for the encouragement of a genre (scientific prose) which in the Academy's view is not sufficiently appreciated either by its writers or recipients and is therefore underdeveloped in comparison with other European literatures." The value of this prize was DM6,000 until 1976. It has since been raised to DM10,000.

The Johann-Heinrich Voss Translation Prize was first awarded in 1958. It is for "outstanding achievements in the field of translation," and is awarded for life-works as well as for individual translations of poetry, drama, essays and even productive science if the standard is sufficiently high. The prize is worth DM6,000.

The Friedrich Gundolf Prize for German Studies Abroad, is, like the Translation Prize, founded in 1964, intended to "make people aware of the Academy's international cultural policy and is awarded to a leading foreign scholar of German literature. The prize is worth DM6,000.

In 1964 the Academy adopted a tradition of scientific academies and decided to award prizes for essays on specific questions on language and literature. These prizes are worth DM3,000 each at the moment.

In its publications the Academy attempts to make us aware of at least some of the literature which suffered as a result of the lack of freedom between 1933 and 1945. Authors such as Oskar Loerke, Alfred Mombert and Gertrud Kolmar have achieved the status their works deserves thanks to the Academy.

The biographical-bibliographical German Exile Literature 1933-1945 can be considered as a typical Academy publication. The first edition, which appeared in 1962 (second, larger edition appeared in 1970) provided the basis for the history of German exile literature. Today the Sternfeld/Tiedemann, as it is called after its editors, is an indispensable work of reference.

Since 1 March 1978 the Academy has been conducting a scientific project on the linguistic norms currently valid in the German-speaking world. These norms, sometimes formulated, sometimes silently accepted, will be analysed and discussed in the fields of the press, radio and television, industry, administration and the public educational system.

Marianne Hübscher-Bitter

(Das Parlament, 6 October 1979)

Reading cost depends upon taste

Bremer Nachrichten

Germans who prefer literature to other forms of reading pay less for their books. Statistics issued by publishers show that the average price of a book last year was DM23.28. But books that are classed as literature cost an average of only DM7.44.

One reason for the difference is the large number of low-cost literature paperbacks now coming out. And literature has for many years been the best-selling category — both in paperback and hardback.

The record year was 1966, and last year sales almost reached this mark.

According to the publishers 12,161 works of literature were published last year.

With a total of 53,137 first or re-editions the literature section accounted for 22.9 per cent of the total book sales. In the paperback sector, the 3,300 works accounted for over half of all new publications.

Ever since 1951, literature has been ahead of all other categories of books published by the now 9,400 publishers in West Germany and West Berlin. In 1951, 14,000 new publications — about 18 per cent — came into the literature category. Ten years later, the German Book Association's statisticians found that 23,100 (23 per cent) of all new publications were works of literature. After a temporary drop towards the end of the sixties, literature has regained abot 23 per cent of the market. In the past 27 years, just under a fifth of all books published in this country have been works of literature.

Because literary works sell so well their prices are far lower than those of other categories.

In 1976 and 1977, we find that the average price of works of literature was DM15 lower than the average book price.

The book industry, which is particularly susceptible to new economic and media developments, is optimistic about the future. Price rises for books averaged only 6 per cent last year, which means that books are a "good value for money medium." However, given the competition from the electronic media, books ought ideally to be even cheaper. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 October 1979)

■ EUROPEAN CULTURES

A golden light on life with the Thracians

The Thracians consisted of more than 40 tribes. They had no alphabet of their own, so they used the Greek. Their language can be read, but it is extremely difficult to understand.

In an effort to widen what knowledge there is about the Thracians, the Roman-Germanic Museum in Cologne is holding an exhibition, "The Gold of the Thracians — Archaelogical Treasures from Bulgaria."

Special security precautions have been taken in the main lecture hall where the exhibits are on show. The gold treasures from four millenia are ensured for tens of millions of deutschemarks.

Little time is spent on Thracian culture in school history lessons. Perhaps



Vessel shaped as a deer's head

(Photos: Katalog)

this is a result of the contempt with which the ancient Greeks — the founders of classical culture — regarded their "barbaric" neighbours in the north. The Greeks regarded the Thracians as irascible peasants and cattle breeders, strong men who could take their drink; brave warriors and spendour-seeking goldmine owners with sometimes bizarre opinions which showed that they were far from being intellectuals.

The following story by the Greek historian Plutarch illustrates the — undoubtedly prejudiced — Greek view of the Thracians: Kotys (king of the Odrysians) was given a panther as a gift and he gave the man a lion in return.

Kotys was quick-tempered by nature and punished severely anyone who made a mistake in his service. Once a guest have him a very fragile and delicate earthware service, adorned with lifelike and exalted figures. Kotys, however, smashed the entire service "so that I do not in anger punish too hard those who break it."

The Greeks probably laughed as heartily at this joke as the German today do at East Frisian jokes.

In the Iliad, Homer praises the horses of a Thracian prince fighting for the Trojans against the Greeks. He says they are "the finest and biggest I have ever seen, whiter than dazzling show and swift as the wind." Herodotus wrote that if the Thracians could only unite "they would be invincible and the most powerful race."

Many Greeks myths — those about the singer Orpheus, Dionysus and war god Ares — originally came from the Thracian religion. The magnificent goblets, jugs and sacrificial vessels on show at the exhibition were probably used during the orgiastic feasts of Dionysus. These vessels, along with the ornate jewellery for horses and ladies, are among the finest of all the exhibits.

Catalogue number 271 illustrates the sensual delights that customarily followed "the wine-drinking: a charming ornamental mounting of gilded silver shows a mythical couple having sexual intercourse their "holy wedding", watched over by a lady holding a twig (fertility symbol) and a wine jar...

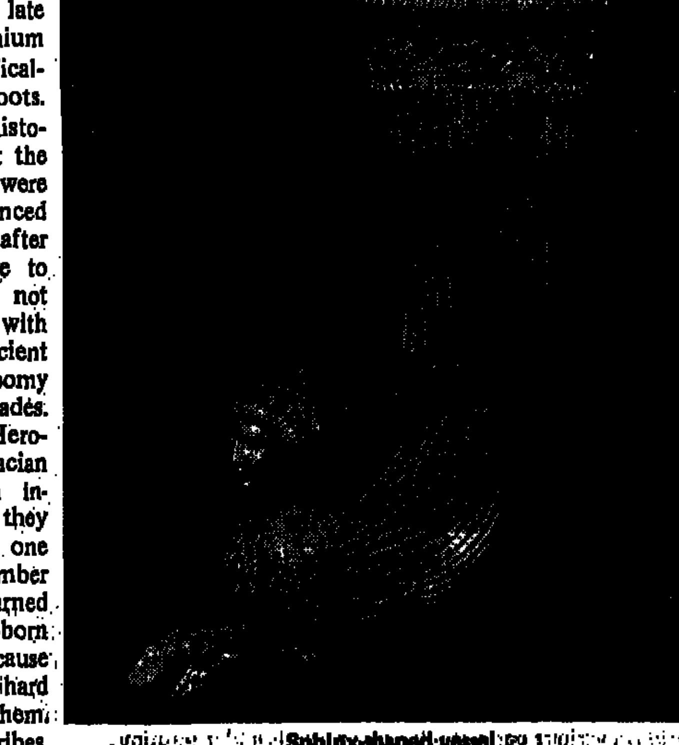
The Thracians used the Greek alphabet. We can read this language, but we have as much difficulty in understanding it as did the ancient Greeks. Eight words are engraved on the gold ring from Esorowo, the most famous Thracian document from the 5th century B.C. Classicial scholars have produced 17 different translations of this inscription. Only the proper names can be identified with some certainty.

When trying to understand Thracian culture, we have to rely for written evidence almost exclusively on the distorted picture presented by their Greek neighbours and later colonisers. Even the treasures on show in Cologne only give partial testimony to the nature of the Thracians.

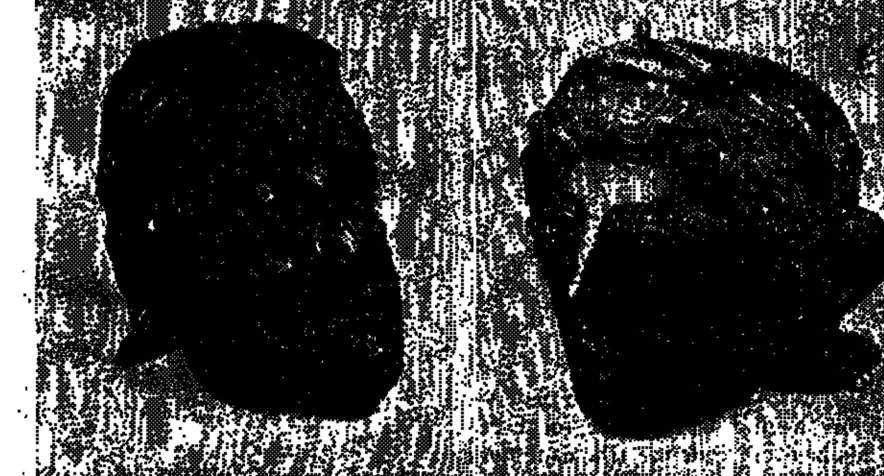
The most magnificent item in the exhibition, a royal drinking vessel from Panagjuritsche, of solid, high-quality gold and weighing 6.1 kilos tells us less about the Thracian world view than about the way the Greeks saw the Thracians. Greek goldsmiths produced these vessels, with their oriental richness, specifically for "barbaric" markets — for example for small Thracian dynasties and royal families.

In classical Greece, these cornucopias, unscrupulously combining the stylised depiction of animals with realistic portrayal of human forms were considered in poor taste. The fact that the noble kitsch of the past is today regarded as the highest art proves only how poor out own taste is today.

The almost baroque variety of forms and sensuousness of Thracian handicraft — apart from the almost archaic simplicity of the late second millenium — has its specifically Thracian roots. The ancient historians wrote that the Thracians were firmly convinced there was a life after death: their life to come is bright, not to be confused with Hades, the ancient Greeks' gloomy realm of shades. According to Herodotus, the Thracian Trausi had an incredible custom: they rejoiced when one of their number died and mourned over new-born children because they still had hard lives before them. Among many tribes,



Sphinx-shaped vessel



Two Thracian face helmets from the first century A. D.

polygamy was as common as the selling of their children into slavery; before marriage, young women made love with the men of their choice but after marriage they were not only strictly bound to be faithful but also had to do most of the work at home and in the fields.

When, in the polygamous village family a man died, his relatives found out who was his favourite wife. She was then decked out in her finest clothing, led to his grave, and killed — so that she could keep him company in the after-life.

Their unshakeable belief in life after death, a major motif in the cult of Dionysus and the Orpeus legend, also led the Thracians to send human messengers to their god, Salmoxis. Herodotus describes this as follows:

"Every five years they draw lots to choose a messenger to be sent to Salmoxis. He has to tell the god everything they have on their minds. Then three men hold spears up in the air. The man chosen as messenger is then taken up by hand and foot and thrown into the air so that he falls on the spears.

"If he dies, impaled on the spears, the Thracians believe their god will hear their prayers; if he does not die, they believe the messenger is to blame because he is a bad man, and so they send someone else instead of him." Lucky was the man they found to be bad...

Experts reckon that the Bulgarians of today have only about 10 per cent Thracian blood in them. The majority are descended from the Slav horsemen who during the Barbarian Invasions also conquered the north of Greece. Then there is the influence of the Persians, Scythians, Macedonians, Romans and Turks, all of whom at some stage ruled or conquered the Thracians.

In 1981, the People's Republic of Bulgaria will celebrate the founding of the first Bulgarian state by Khan Asparuch 1,300 years ago in 681. The generous loan of Bulgarian treasures to foreign museums is in connection with this anniversary.

The Bulgarians not only want to celebrate — they want to be celebrated as a state with a cultural tradition. This aim will undoubtedly be achieved. The visitors to this exhibition were deeply impressed by what they saw.

Matthias Schreiber

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 October 1979)

Da Vinci show in Hamburg

A collection of anatomical drawings by Leonardo da Vinci is being shown in this country for the first time.

The collection, on loan from the Windsor Castle Royal Library in London, are at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

The director, Werner Hoffmann, says the exhibition is "a sensational event" in the organisation's history.

On show are a selection of 50 pages, 40 of which have drawings on both sides.

These drawings, one of the most prized possessions of the English Crown, have to date only been shown in the United States, Florence and the Royal Academy of London.

That the exhibition was able to take place is partly due to the efforts of the Hamburg Chamber of Physicians, who organised a fund-raising campaign.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 October 1979)

Race relations under study

African and Oriental specialists from France, Israel, Nigeria, Austria, Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany, are currently discussing relations between the white and black African races which have been living for thousands of years in the Sahara and the Sudan.

The experts have gathered at Marburg University for the conference on central African languages.

The specific interest is on questions of cultural and linguistic history, and on sociolinguistic aspects of the peoples in the Sahara and the Sudan.

(Die Welt, 4 October 1979)

■ BEHAVIOUR

Mind therapy technique 'with vivid colour'



As he was riding away from Sesenheim, having taken leave for ever from his beloved Friderike (the daughter of Pastor Brion of Sesenheim) Goethe had an optical illusion.

In *Dränge und Verwirrungen* he described it as follows: "I saw myself, not with the eyes of the body but those of the intellect, riding towards me in a dress I had never worn before... as soon as I forced myself out of this dream the image was gone. The miraculous illusion lent tranquility at that moment of parting."

This optical illusion clearly reflects Goethe's ambiguous feelings about breaking off his relationship with Friderike: contrary to his rational decision, he saw himself riding back to her.

Imagery of this nature demonstrates two things: the visual imaginary ability of man as a spontaneous expression of his psyche's drive to depict itself (Freud suspected that imagery was an early form of thinking) and that acute emotional difficulties are expressed in images as are myths, fairy tales, works of literature, religious writings and, indeed, language itself.

It also demonstrates that imagination lends tranquility because the counter impulse is experienced in fantasy.

It is known from many observations that in circumstances of extreme emotional stress, as in situations involving risk to life, flashbacks with very vivid images are common.

The same applies on the verge of sleep, that thin borderline between sleep and wakefulness.

Spontaneous images of this nature occur primarily when consciousness and purpose oriented thought processes are reduced, giving way to a free flow of emotions and associations of ideas.

Knowing the conditions in which such imagery usually occurs and realising its tranquilising effect, it is an obvious conclusion that this should be used for therapeutic purposes.

Professor Hanscarl Leuner, a Göttingen psychoanalyst, has delved into this matter for the past 30 years and has evolved a therapy which he calls "katathyme", which has gained world-wide recognition.

In the course of the therapy, the patient is made to relax completely and then told to give free rein to his imagery. If somebody is told without prior practice to imagine a certain object, like his parental home, the images usually remain pale and have to be maintained with a deliberate effort lest they withdraw and be replaced by others.

In a state of relaxation, these images gradually become clearer and more colourful, eventually being vividly present before closed eyes.

This intensification of imagery leads to further relaxation and relaxation in turn makes the imagery even more vivid and colourful.

Although no hypnosis is used in the therapy, the patient's condition eventually becomes similar to that of a hypnotic trance.

Professor Leuner's therapy begins with the "flower test". He asks his comfortably seated patient to close his eyes and visualise a flower. In 80 per cent of the cases the patient sees some sort of flower, mostly in colour and three-dimensional, and sometimes he even smells it. He is instantly in a position to describe the flower.

Such katathyme imagery differs from normal images inasmuch as it is more colourful and three-dimensional. Katathyme images have a life of their own and can not be deliberately influenced. They can have the character of perception and, like dreams, they can distort realities. The patient becomes emotionally involved — and this is desirable.

In evaluating katathyme imagery, it is important to pay particular attention to contents. The significance of this can be understood on the basis of familiarity with prior history and symbols. The therapist must also pay close attention to accompanying emotions and reactions such as accelerated breathing and pauses in the patient's description of his images.

Another important criterion is how the patient tackles tasks (with determination or hesitancy) and whether he faces danger with composure or avoids it altogether. Finally, the symbolic content represents a message and an appeal to the therapist as well as a message to the patient's ego that is confronted with his own unconscious.

Such a confrontation can come as a surprise to the patient; it can be very painful, embarrassing or frightening. In fact, this is why it has been suppressed — a suppression katathyme imagery can relax or temporarily reverse.

Further experience with katathyme images was instrumental in helping Professor Leuner to make a number of important discoveries for practical psychotherapy.

He learned to differentiate between changing and fixed images, the later being conspicuously stereotype. They point to the emotional rigidity typical for people suffering from neurotic disorders.

A woman patient who came for treatment of headaches was told to imagine a mountain. For months, she always described the same mountain with the same ruin of a fortress on the summit. She could visualise every stone.

When the therapist suggested that the ruin might have something to do with her disappointments and her feelings towards her father, the image of the ruin suddenly changed.

This remarkable phenomenon has been confirmed time and again. These changes indicate that a conflict has been touched upon in a meaningful and emotionally relevant manner.

This also applies to unstable images that keep changing as the personality develops, thus reflecting even minor psychological changes and the smallest of psychotherapeutic actions.

A rather late discovery shows that the term "emotional projection" that has been in use since Freud is inadequate as a means of describing psychological dynamism.

It was assumed that an unconscious emotional situation is projected on to the person being tested; in other words, that such a process always takes place in one direction only.

But projection of katathyme imagery is a two-way affair, involving not only a projection of the psyche into the image but also a projection from the image back to the psyche as soon as the therapist or the patient influences the image.

This discovery, which Professor Leuner terms *Operation am Symbol* (symbol operation), involves far-reaching consequences for the selective influencing of man. It can only be understood if the symbol is no longer seen as a noncommital sign but as a potent and psychologically significant element, as is done by primitive people and very small children.

They equate the symbol with the thing itself (anyone abusing the picture of a person abuses the person himself and anyone burning the enemy's dress also burns the enemy himself).

Naturally, the systematic application in psychotherapy of katathyme imagery

Continued on page 13



Inside the body in colour

Scientists at the German Electrone Sychroton in Hamburg have developed a computerised technique of examining the various organs by using colour X-rays. The key to the operation is an electron calculator which is attached to an ordinary X-ray machine. Here the doctor compares a healthy human kidney (left) with a diseased one. The system also identifies areas of poor circulation by showing the effects of liquid on various parts of whatever organ is under scrutiny. (Photo: DESY)

Suicide rate 'varies by the street'

The number of suicides and attempted suicides is rising: 14,000 people take their own lives every year in the Federal Republic of Germany, and this figure does not include suicides by self-induced accidents.

There are seven suicide attempts for every completed suicide, says Mannheim sociologist Dr Rainer Welz.

In Mannheim, the annual quota of suicide attempts rose from 182 in 1966 to 366 in 1975. A total of 3,476 Mannheimers attempted to take their lives during that period — 613 did so more than once. More than two-thirds of the attempted suicides were women.

Dr Welz's study *Selbstmordversuche in städtischer Lebensumwelt* (Suicide Attempts in an Urban Environment), published by *Beltz Verlag*, Weinheim, is particularly interesting because it examines where the desperate who attempted or committed suicide lived in an effort to pinpoint high risk areas.

The author arrives at a startling conclusion: suicide attempts are concentrated in a very few streets.

The street with the highest quota was a ghetto reserved for prostitutes. There one in 14 of the women inhabitants tried to commit suicide during a 10-year period.

The novelty of this study, a dissertation earning the author a summa cum laude doctorate, is the breakdown into specific streets.

Previous studies of this nature broke down figures according to districts. Dr Welz criticised these analyses as faulty, saying that above-average suicide rates in certain city districts can simply mean that there is a concentration of suicides in certain streets although the rate for the district as a whole is low.

He uses an example to demonstrate this. If there is a high suicide rate in the western part of a city borough and if the eastern part is populated primarily by older people, it is inadmissible to forge a link between the high age of these inhabitants and the incidence of suicide.

Comparing streets with a high and those with a low suicide rate, Dr Welz succeeded in isolating factors that make life so unattractive as to lead to self-destruction.

High suicide-rate streets are always in areas that prevent durable and stable social relations or make them more difficult. As a result, the inhabitants feel isolated.

"The greater the number of people living in a building and the number of apartments per building, the higher the quota of divorced people and of incomplete families, of female singles, of working women and those women who have to help support others, the higher the suicide rate," writes Dr Welz.

There is virtually no risk to inhabitants of areas with good housing conditions.

The high suicide rates in a very few streets lead to the assumption that suicide attempts are more likely in areas where others have taken their lives before.

Dr Welz does not exclude the possibility that such streets are "contaminated" and that a process of social influencing takes place. *Beatrix Geisel*

(Welt der Arbeit, 4 October 1979)

■ SCIENCE

'Freedom and survival' the main issues

Freedom and survival are the issues facing scientists today: survival is of little value without freedom and not possible without reason.

This was the theme set by Carl F. von Weizsäcker, in his address to the 20th anniversary meeting of the Association of German Scientists (VDW) in Bad Godesberg.

Weizsäcker, one of the co-founders of the organisation, said the question of the scientist and his responsibility to the community is more important today than ever before.

The VDW was founded in 1959, and one of the reasons for its foundation was the danger of nuclear destruction. This danger, he said, seemed rather abstract at that time, 20 years ago, but it was a danger that was growing all the time.

Weizsäcker said survival was the main subject in the early years of the organisation.

But over the years there had been a shift: the issue now was survival in freedom.

With freedom and survival, the essential point was not what we claimed for ourselves but what we were prepared to allow others.

Freedom and survival were connected in that survival was of little value without freedom. This freedom needed protection.

The threat to this freedom could not simply be eliminated by the removal of the military threat. When thought through consistently, the question of a new world order was bound to arise.

Given these considerations, did the scientist have a special responsibility? Can he claim special attention in political questions for instance? Weizsäcker's reply: The scientist cannot claim authority merely because he is a scientist but only as a result of the authority he acquires by his mastery of his subject and the strength of his arguments.

Weizsäcker said that scientists were not less capable of speaking of the consequences of their actions than political experts in whatever field was under discussion.

Scientists, he said, were used to talking about the direct results of their research, such as its technological applications. Anyone who spoke of further-reaching consequences — given the present state of the scientific community — put his career at risk. As long as this continued to be so, science was a plague on society, doing more harm than good.

Unlike 20 years ago, this self-critical plea for scientists to accept the consequences of their work and to decide democratically on it is welcomed by today's politicians. Research Minister Volker Hauff said at the VDW conference that politicians depended not only on science but on the responsibility of science if they were to do more than weigh the advantages against the disadvantages of science. Politicians now regarded the development of technology not as an almost natural process but as a controllable process for which they were answerable.

Such policies could in turn influence what Weizsäcker described as dangerous science. Herr Hauff said that one of the tasks of research policy was to reduce fears among scientists that interdisciplinary research would harm their careers — by creating more research possibilities.

Dietrich Goldschmidt, educationist and development expert, gave a talk on "Scientific Responsibility towards the Third World — the Discrepancy between the Tasks and Present Possibilities of African Universities." We are familiar with the idea that scientific responsibility knows no national frontiers. However, Goldschmidt's appeal to the scientific community to spend their latter years in the Third World to help ensure the continuity of the work being done there underlined how much the Association still has to do to make its members aware of this problem.



Carl F. von Weizsäcker (Photo: Interpress)

This inwardness and attempt to persuade, convert the scientific community was a frequent characteristic, especially when scientific ethics of responsibility and relations to the non-scientific world were being discussed.

A panel consisting of philosophers Weizsäcker and Lübbe, political scientist Fetscher, educationist Becker and Minister of Education Jochimsen discussed the reasons why public esteem for science seemed to be on the wane. The range of answers was wide: disappointment at unfulfilled expectations, caused finally by the move to the left at universities since the sixties (Hermann Lübbe), lack of interest by scientists in their "inner front", the incomprehensibility of their language to the general public (Reimut Jochimsen), lack of participation by politicians in the development of science and therefore also in its uncertainties (Hellmut Becker), exaggerated self-esteem on the part of scientist (Weizsäcker).

Unfortunately the panel did not go into the problem of the existence of a political-scientific complex in which each sphere is dependent on the other for legitimation or finance and which tends to fit problems into its own categories and to resist outside influences.

Yet perhaps these speeches do not do justice to scientists' awareness of the problems. The concrete VDW work being done under the chairmanship of Essen philosopher Meyer-Abich is increasingly concerned with such problems as the social compatibility of energy-producing systems, the revolution in bio-technology, questions of the exploitation of the sea and marine technology. *Jens Fischer*

(Vorwärts, 4 October 1979)

Continued from page 12

requires adequate psychotherapeutic training in this special method.

This applies particularly to *Operation am Symbol.*

Katathyme imagery is particularly suitable for short-term psychotherapy involving about 20 to 25 hours.

Extremely short treatment periods extending over a few hours only are more in the nature of psychotherapeutic crisis intervention.

Professor Leuner holds that psychoanalytic theory with its recognition of the unconscious and its symbolism and its insight into libido and its repression provides the most suitable basis for research into the dynamism reflected in imagery. *Wolfgang Cyran*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 September 1979)

Reading process 'still mystery'

The process of reading is still not fully understood. And it is unlikely to be for another few years.

Experts still have not found an explanation for the speed which we read at, a conference on Memory Psychology and Information Processing in Tübingen has been told.

Each step in the process takes about a thousandth of a second.

Scientists hope that better understanding of how reading works will help them find out how information can best be memorised. *dpa*

(Handelsblatt, 3 October 1979)

Minister both rebukes and praises

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The democratic view of life in the Federal Republic of Germany owed something to political scientists; yet at the same time these political scientists are provincial in attitude, according to Rainer Offergeld, Minister of Economic Development.

He told a conference of the German Political Science Association in Augsburg that members of the discipline were responsible to some extent for the modernity and stability of West German institutions.

There are "enemies of the system" in their ranks, but only a few. Most think back fondly on the fifties and sixties when political science became a university discipline, many of its teachers being Germans returning from emigration. It was a period when they accepted the challenge of the new start and combated all disdainers of democracy.

Then came the turbulence of the student revolution, in which the social sciences also became involved, getting a bad name in some quarters. Then the change of generations among political scientists led to a loss of reputation. The outstanding founder fathers of the subject were sometimes succeeded by mediocrities.

However, political scientists were now working hard and researching thoroughly again. What Herr Offergeld said is certainly not wrong, that is why his words did the political scientists good.

The minister followed this praise with a number of critical observations. From the standpoint of his own ministry, he accused social scientists of being too adventurous, of not studying sufficiently what was happening in other countries. Complaints such as these about the provincialism — which can easily become narrow-mindedness — of German academics are justified. However, university lecturers are reluctant to spend longer periods abroad because of the difficulties of reintegration when they come back.

Herr Offergeld's expectations in this respect are high. He wants analyses of political and social processes in Iran, Afghanistan and Saudi-Arabia, analyses of the mentality and social structure of other cultures, studies by people "who have lived with nomads."

He said that the success or failure of development aid depended on the reliability of such studies. Many in the audience felt that the minister was asking for too much here. University discipline makes it impossible to meet such wishes.

Herr Offergeld criticised not only the unwillingness to teach and do research abroad but also the quality of many political studies commissioned by ministries. Often, academic advisors presented not political conclusions but unreadable nonsense (though the minister used a polite circumlocution here.)

However, even these criticisms from an interested minister were more acceptable to the political scientists than the Government's snub of their congress in Bonn two years ago. *Peter Diehl-Thiele*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 October 1979)



MODERN LIVING

Coat of arms designers busy coping with new demand

Coats of arms were used during the crusades as a means of identification in battle. Today, they are once more gaining in popularity as man becomes more and more anonymous in modern society.

They are on calling cards and fireplaces; they are often regarded as an expression of tradition and a symbol of handed-down values. Heraldic lions, bears, stallions and eagles look the enemy in the eye. Clear-cut, usually vividly coloured ornamentation improves long-range identification and, as a result, metal is never displayed upon metal.

Only Gottfried von Bouillon, king of Jerusalem, was the exception that proved the rule. His coat of arms depicted a golden cross on a silver background, and



Heraldic coat of arms

no-one knows why. He simply undulged in this heraldic ugliness.

Internationally recognised heraldists like Alfred Dochtermann, who founded the Stuttgart Heraldry Archives 40 years ago, would probably only smile forgivingly at Bouillon's stylistic aberration.

But what mattered in the days of armour, when all that was visible of a knight were his eyes, it was essential to be able to differentiate between friend and foe. Any marking would do the trick. Though his was not the birth of heraldry, it marked its renaissance. After all, coats of arms or house symbols were known to and used by the Hebrews.

Having a coat of arms today is considered more as being aristocratic and an expression of ancient family tradition than as a symbolic alternative to our numbered society.

For many, the exaggerated ornaments and curlicues are not an indication of a revival of traditional values but, as Prince Wilhelm Victor of Prussia, head of the Heraldic Archives in Stuttgart, puts it, a petrified relic of feudal rule. Be this as it may: heraldry is on its way in again.

Specialists of the Stuttgart Coat of Arms Archives Ltd. design some 200 to 300 new coats of arms a year along traditional patterns for wealthy contemporaries.

Be it engraved in a ring or etched on glass or printed on calling cards and letterheads — the holder of the coat of arms always wants to have a synthesis of heraldic symbolism and artistic imagina-



tion that crystalises the inimitable past, present and future of a family.

Industrial magnates in their quest for an image are as intrigued and attracted the subject as are teenagers or white collar workers or just plain snobs.

The 24 volumes of Dochtermann's coat of arms catalogue published so far include thousands of family escutcheons containing variations of the four basic elements (shield, helmet, helmet ornamentation and helmet top). Each of these elements is a distinguishable mark for a person and a family.

This was not always so. Though at the beginning of non-aristocratic heraldry the acceptance of a coat of arms was in the discretion of the bearer, there was a period extending over centuries when the state exercised control. But no-one has as yet thought of a form of registration.

Today, every citizen is at liberty to have a coat of arms, provided this does not violate the rights of others. In other words: every new coat of arms must differ from existing ones.

When control over heraldry eased in 1919, the quick-quid merchants moved in. Fake escutcheons or poorly made imitations told the gullible that they were the last of an ancient and grand family tradition, or that they were of noble birth.

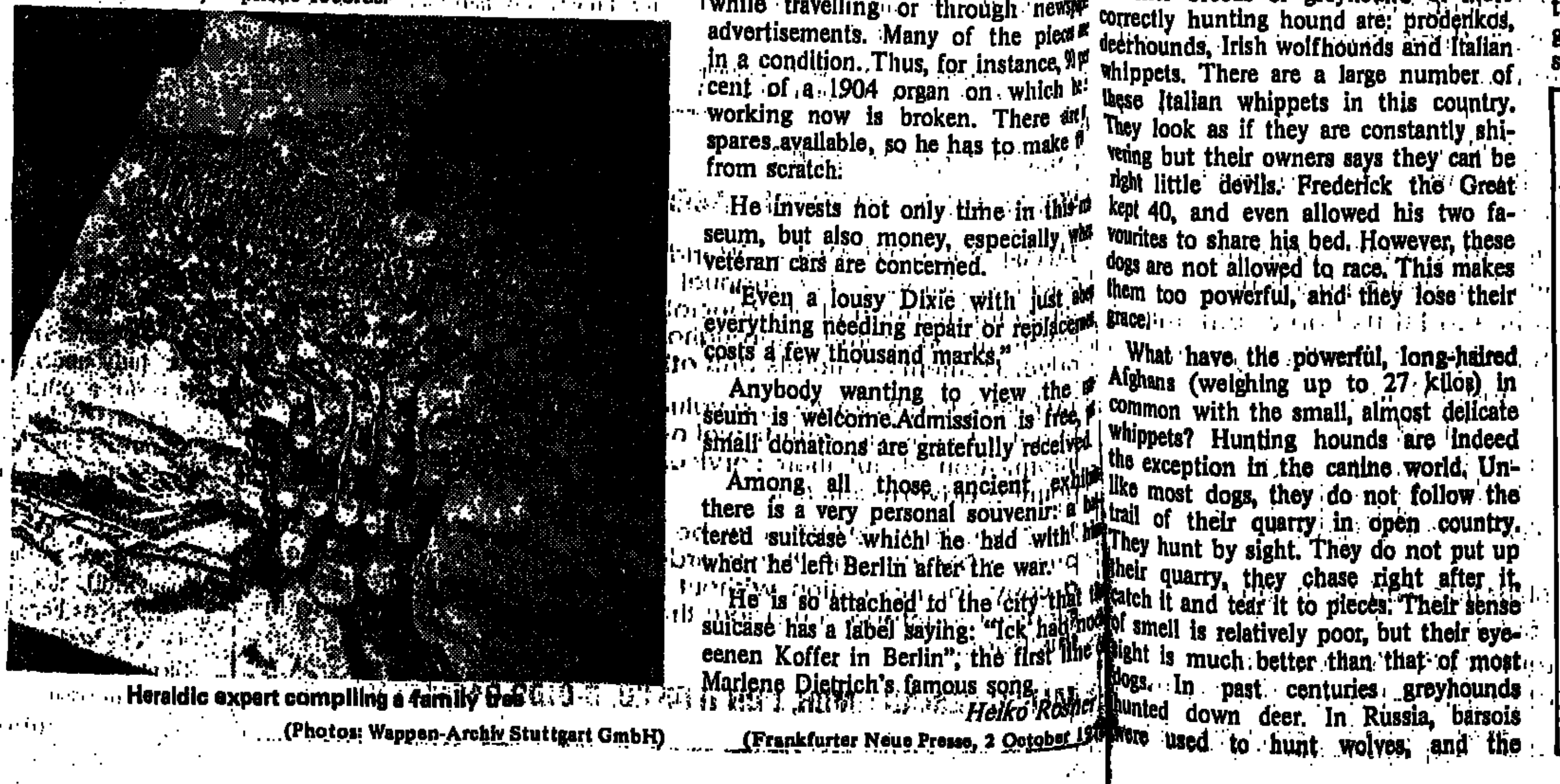
Serious heraldry is essentially research. It is used by bearers of coats of arms to have their escutcheons examined as to tradition and very frequently families are trying to unearth ancient and forgotten coasts of arms of which all they know is that they existed, though being unable to say when or where.

The Stuttgart Archives have tracked down thousands of such coats of arms at a cost of between DM400 and DM2,000 each. Obviously not all cases were successful.

In the course of this frequently extensive research, the Archives has to resort to almost inaccessible source material in private and government archives, plus ancient literature and church records.

If the search remains unsuccessful, the client can always have a new coat of arms designed, the cost varying from case to case. Heraldists always try decode a family name, breaking it down into its "speaking" elements. A heraldist know, for instance, that the name Hoffmann almost invariably stems from the region east of the Elbe river while Hofmann with one "f" originates in southern Germany. The profession of the forebears is also used as a stylistic element. The name Staiger (climber), for instance, would have stairs in the coat of arms. The number of those who want a complete picture of their family's past is growing. Family trees today rank among the most important tasks of Stuttgart Coat of Arms Archives. The necessary research, frequently world-wide, is usually even more expensive than unearthing old coats of arms, as one customer who had to pay DM30,000 recently found out.

Rolf Antrecht
(Handelsblatt, 3 October 1979)



Heraldic expert compiling a family tree

(Photos: Wappen-Archiv Stuttgart GmbH)



Heinz Panke in his Museum

(Photo: Tadeusz Dabrowski)

From cow barn to museum — with tender care

Heinz Panke's private museum is housed in a disused cow barn in Nieder Eschbach. In just 40 sq metres, he has crammed old gramophones, radios, barrel organs, typewriters, adding machines and many other collection pieces.

Everything in the "Museum for Technology and Music" has been tenderly restored and carefully looked after.

Herr Panke, who is in his 70s, discovered his collector's passion 40 years ago. This eventually led to the present museum that has been opened to the public for the past eight years.

His treasures are innumerable. Herr Panke reconstructed 50 years of German radio history (he says: "I'm the only private individual that has a radio museum"); he rebuilt 20 concert barrel organs which have become so rare that there were only two them at last year's October Festival in Munich.

To celebrate the Year of the Child, Herr Panke put this collection of baby scales of the years 1880 to 1920 on show. He has also collected 20,000 metres of film and some 3,500 gramophone records.

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Another unique item is a piece wood that is thought to be seven m lion years old. But it has not been est lished whether it is genuine or not.

Herr Panke himself represents a pi of the past. He is an expert in a gr many fields and whenever asked ab one his specialities, is not slow to t He also says that the prophet is with honour in his own country, though he not bitter about it.

A few years ago, he negotiated w the city fathers of Frankfurt and fo while it seemed as if his museum wo be moved to a convent. Put the wh thing fell through because of a lack money. Herr Panke: "All they wanted give me was DM400 a month. Ev jobless person gets twice much, so I t them: 'you can't do that with a Berli Prussian'."

Herr Panke collects his items eit while travelling or through newspa advertisements. Many of the pieces in a condition. Thus, for instance, 90 pe cent of a 1904 organ on which he working now is broken. There are spares available, so he has to make from scratch.

He invests not only time in this m seum, but also money, especially wh veteran cars are concerned.

"Even a lousy Dixie with just ab everything needing repair or replaceme costs a few thousand marks."

Anybody wanting to view the m seum is welcome. Admission is free, small donations are gratefully received.

Among all those ancient exhib there is a very personal souvenir: a ba tered suitcase which he had with hi when he left Berlin after the war.

He is so attached to the city that th suitcase has a label saying: "Ick hab noc eenen Koffer in Berlin", the first line Marlene Dietrich's famous song.

Heiko Rosner
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 October 1979)

SPORT

Hunting instinct essence of racing dogs

Greyhound racing in Bad Homburg. The last half hour before the race begins. Two to three hundred dogs and their owners, plus friends, relatives and strangers with their dachshunds on leads. Wailing music over the loudspeakers, barking, sometimes feeble, sometimes loud and angry, the shouts of men and children, hit music, the humming of the motors of latecomers as they try desperately to find a parking space. The music of Mozart to calm the nerves. Are they all freaks — the dogs and their owners?

Greyhound racing in Germany. On the last weekend in August the 26th German Greyhound Derby was held in Hamburg-Farmsen. As usual, the Hamburg press ignored it.

Anger or disappointment among the greyhound fanciers? Not a bit of it. It suits them fine.

Günther Schulze, chairman of the racing commission of the German Greyhound Breeding and Racing Association (DWZRV), says: "We want members who join us because they love dogs, not because they want their names in the papers on Mondays."

Many will therefore be amazed by some of the following statistics on the subject of greyhound racing:

- First greyhound race with an electric hare in Germany: 29 April, 1928, in Cologne (two years later than in England).
- Today there are 29 greyhound racing clubs in West Germany from Pforzheim to Trittau. In Berlin there are even two clubs. These clubs have a total of 25 courses, the oldest being in Farmsen, the biggest in Gelsenkirchen. In 1978 there were 60 days of racing, in 1979 there will be 72. There are 60 to 80 races each race day.
- Of the more than 4,000 members of the DWZRV, about 1,000 also own racing dogs (as opposed to dogs kept for breeding). The total number of racing greyhounds is about 1,600.
- The following breeds are to be found on German dog tracks: Afghans, whippets, then greyhounds proper (which dominate the sport in England), salukis, slougis, galgos and barsois.

Other breeds of greyhound or more correctly hunting hound are: proderikos, deerhounds, Irish wolfhounds and Italian whippets. There are a large number of these Italian whippets in this country. They look as if they are constantly shivering but their owners says they can be right little devils. Frederick the Great kept 40, and even allowed his two favourites to share his bed. However, these dogs are not allowed to race. This makes them too powerful, and they lose their grace.

What have the powerful, long-haired Afghans (weighing up to 27 kilos) in common with the small, almost delicate whippets? Hunting hounds are indeed the exception in the canine world. Unlike most dogs, they do not follow the trail of their quarry in open country. They hunt by sight. They do not put up their quarry, they chase right after it, catch it and tear it to pieces. Their sense of smell is relatively poor, but their eyesight is much better than that of most dogs. In past centuries greyhounds hunted down deer. In Russia, barsois were used to hunt wolves, and the North African nomads take a saluki with them in the saddle when they go hunting. As soon as they see a gazelle, they release the saluki. After cheetahs, greyhounds are the fastest of all land animals. They can reach speeds of 60 kms per hour.

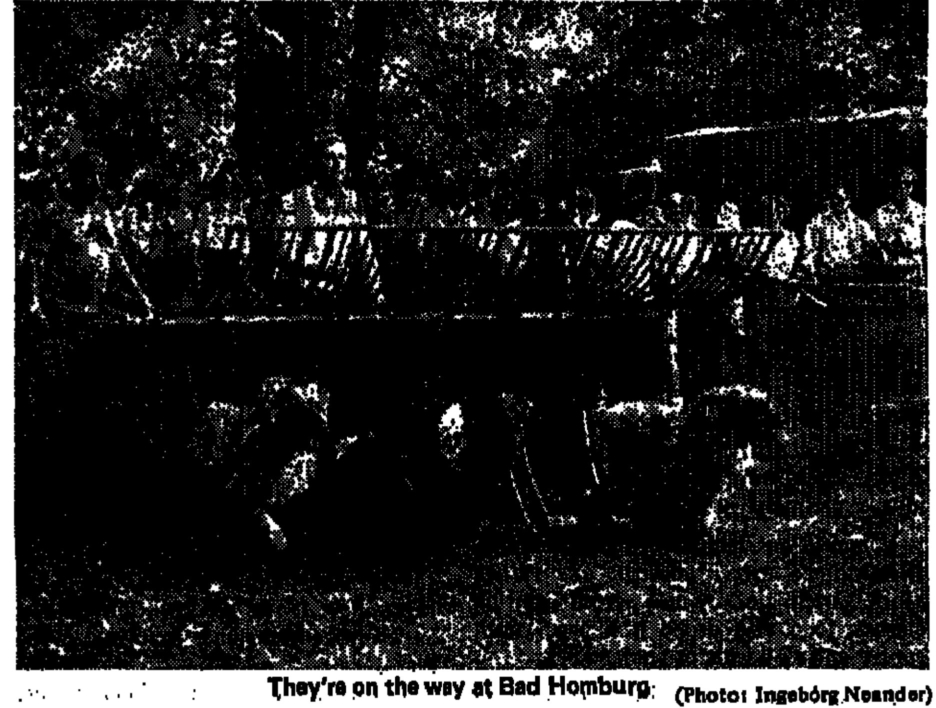
With racing dogs, the hunting instinct is the essential quality. Training can only bring fitness and racetrack expertise. Greyhounds, then, are dogs that race 350 to 500 metres round a fenced-in oval track in pursuit of an artificial hare, which moves on rollers around the course. The dogs are then caught after the race.

This can sometimes produce highly comical scenes. Ladies in white organza chase heroically after their shaggy dogs, grab hold of them, lose them again — many of the dogs prefer to run on rather than fight for the hareskin once they have passed the post — get up, chase after them and, having finally caught them, drag them back, their arms around their bellies, triumphantly to the track. And if the disobedient beast has won the race, its beatific owner may plant a kiss on its forehead as it brings it back.

It would be silly and unfair if someone were to ask what would happen if for example baroness Oppenheim had to chase after her thoroughbreds in this way after a race. The difference is enormous. Those who race greyhounds in this country must bring them to the starting traps and get them off the track themselves. They have to feed, brush and speak to the dogs, go on long runs or bike rides with them.

In the past it was different. And in England, Ireland and the USA where greyhound racing is professional and commercial, things are done differently. In Csarist Russia there was a landowner by the name of Samsonov who lived near Smolensk and is said to have owned 1,000 barsois. In England, greyhound owners put their dogs into training camps. Perhaps the owner can take the dog for a walk when be comes to pay the trainer's bill. But otherwise the dogs are regarded as mere objects.

In West Germany, on the other hand, there are few owners with more than six greyhounds, apart from the few professional breeders with their kennels. Six



They're on the way at Bad Homburg. (Photo: Ingeborg Neander)

are about as many as one owner can manage.

This may help us understand why the majority of German greyhound owners are not sorry that betting on greyhound racing is still strictly forbidden. (Another reason for this ban is to protect horse-breeding.)

These factors also account for the social structure of the greyhound owning fraternity. The liberal professions are over-represented: doctors, lawyers, accountants, architects. Small businessmen are also well represented. Greyhound racing demands a certain amount of free time. But there are unskilled workers who own greyhounds. The only category not represented is the very rich.

The cars at the racetracks prove that this sport attracts people from all social classes: one sees huge caravans (two thirds for the dogs, the rest for the family), all kinds of estate cars, many Mercedes and now and then an elegant sports car. But there are also Renault R 4s (with the back seat taken out to accommodate the dog) and Citroen "ducks".

This leads straight to the next question: how does one keep and train a greyhound? Answers to this question vary: "I ride 15 to 20 kms a day by bike with the two whippets following on the lead." "Cycling is no good. The dogs learn to trot, not to gallop. I take them for a walk three hours a day, now and again I do short sprints." — "I have got a field nearby and I just let him run free. Now and again he catches a rabbit, but then what harm is that?..."

There are some owners who even travel from Kassel to Offenbach-Bürgel — the nearest track — just to train their dogs, 200 kms there, 200 kms back. Greyhound racing is an expensive hobby. A big dog eats between 500 and 700 grammes of meat, 400 to 500 grammes of vegetables or oats, and maybe some milk with honey or egg yolk in the mornings. The dogs are often so nervous before a race that they have to urinate five or six times. One immediately thinks of parallels with top sportsmen.

Herbert Wittstadt, engineer and chairman of the Frankfurt Racing Club, reckons that a greyhound costs about DM300 a year, excluding costs for food, travelling and racing fees: fees, veterinary examinations, training fees, etc. Theoretically, greyhounds can even be kept in flats. They are very clean and quiet, do not bark but are not very obedient, need affection and are great individualists. Those living in high rise flats need to be on the watch. A dog owner from near Heilbronn told me that his Afghan hound jumped from his balcony. The drop was three yards, but it only broke its paw.

Usually, greyhounds can be taken along to the track from about a year and a half onwards. Greyhounds reach their peak between two and five. From the age of six onwards they are only allowed to run in races for seniors and their racing careers end at eight.

Another question: aren't greyhounds frightfully stupid? They spend six years of their lives chasing after an artificial hare that they do not even catch in the end. No dachshund would go on after the third attempt. Greyhound owners get really angry when they are asked this question. They refer, among other things, to a study by Zurich zoologist Professor Stieferle who found that greyhounds' brains are just as big as those of other dogs.

Impartial observers at the racetrack soon realise that greyhounds are fast learners. The experienced dogs do not bark or scratch at the trap doors as many beginners do. They know this is a waste of energy.

Often one sees dogs that veered too much to the side on the curves in practice runs which correct this error in the main race and take the corners perfectly.

But it doesn't do to be too clever. In Bad Homburg, for example, there was an Afghan hound who had sussed the situation so well that he crossed over to the opposite straight and calmly awaited the arrival of the hare.

Obviously, dogs are disqualified for this kind of thing. In England, they are immediately sold or killed. The Afghan hound in Bad Homburg was the darling of the crowd.

Joachim Neander
(Die Welt, 6 October 1979)